# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

# ffice Memorandum • united states governmen

# Mr. dysen BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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SUBJECT:

DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF RIFLE SCOPES AND MODITS ANTITAUST

This is to advise that the antitrust Division by memor dated January 31, 1955, has requested investigation of alleged . in the captioned matter. The investigation requested involves of with several well known sportsmen's magazines as well as contact give companies engaged in manufacturing rifle scopes and mounts.

The investigation is based on the allegation that certain anufacturers of rifle scopes and mounts have conspired with the publishers of several sporting magazines to control prices at w. these products are distributed and solu to the public. It is a that the magazine publishers, acting in collusion with the manunave refused to accept advertising of those firms which at empt these products at cut prices. Such concerted action to boycott advertising of price cutting retailers would apparently constit Wiolation of the Sherman Act.

The Department has requested that we contact the foll magazines, and their publishing companies:

Field and Stream, Hugh Grey, Editor, published by Henry H and Company, New York City Outdoor Life, William E. Roe, Editor, published by Popula: Science Publishing Company, New York Ci-Hunting and Fishing, Bob Becker, Editor, published by Hun: and Fishing Fublishing Corporation, Chi Sports Afield, Ted Hesting, Editor, published by The Hears Corporation, New York City Fur-Fish-Game (Harding's Magazine), A. V. Harding, Editor published by A. R. Harding Publishing C Columbus, Onio

In addition to the above-named magazines, we are ask tact five companies engaged in the manufacture and distribution scopes and mounts. At all these companies, the investigation the purpose of locating any evidence that the magazines and to facturers have constitled to boycott the advertising of price c retailers.

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

#### ACTION

This is submitted for your information.

Copies of the Antitrust Division request are being prepared and appropriate instructions will be forwarded to the field immediately.

JKP JKP

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#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE ferm No. 1 PAN NEW YORK CAS CASE ORIGINATED AT PORT MADE AT 57C EUFFALO CHARACTER OF CASE DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING ANTITRUST OF RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS and SYNCPSIS OF FACTS: Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., made available annual reports showing financial statements, asset value and quantum of business transacted annually by this company from 1949 6 through 1954 as well as information showing the proportion of variness in scopes and mounts compared to total business transacted during those years. According to these individuals, scopes and mounts form a relatively small portion of their total business. Price list was furnished by E and I. Company for scopes and mounts as well as conditions of sale. Statistical data was obtained reflecting number and dollar value of scopes and mounts sold in 1949 through 1954. Bausch and Lomb Colical Co. does not "fair trade" these products. Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., advised that no attended the meeting held at National Rifle Association Headquarters, Washington, D. C., on 4/20/53, at which time. other manufacturers issued complaints that the American Rifleman was relaxing its long established policy of protecting its readers from false claims in advertising. claims meeting had no effect in the attitude or performance by Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., and further that no conclusions were reached and no actions were declided upon as a result of this meeting to his knowledger 1 CC AUTITACET DIVISION , WITH SANCE JK ? . . . - RUC -MAR 2 2 1955 60-4616 7 722 Bureau (Encls. 13) ENCL New York: MAR = Buffalo\_160-200)

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DEMAILS:

#### AT ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, advised that the amount of business transacted by his company in scopes and mounts is relatively small as compared with the overall quantum of business transacted annually.

Was interviewed on March 2, 1955.

He made available annual reports of the Bausch and Lomb Company for the years 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953 and 1954. He stated that the copies of the annual report for 1951 are not available, however, the annual report for 1952 does include the financial status including the assets and the sales for the year 1951.

These annual reports are being furnished as enclosures with this report to the Bureau.

The total asset value of the Bausch and Lord Company as well as sales for the years 1949 through 1954 are set out:

Year	Sales	Total Assets
1949	\$35,307,100	39,195,535
1950	\$38,027,193	इं40,443,023
1951	\$48,530,912	\$43,660,2 <b>98</b>
1952	\$52,150,812	\$43,498,758
1953	\$51,077,282	\$43,097,805
1954	\$48,927,947 60	-4616

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publication of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, entitled, "Facts About Hunting Sights" which is described as a manual of technical and practical information on the design and construction of telescopic hunting sights and their performance and dependability. He described this publication as the best descriptive information of the various types of rifle scopes and mounts produced by the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company.

This manual is being forwarded as an enclosure with this report to the Bureau.

On February 14, 1954,

Bausch and Lomb Optical Company,

advised that because of the relatively small amount of

business transacted by this company in scopes and

mounts; no separate files are maintained on the

competitors of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company

in this field. He stated that any correspondence

relating to any of the competitors would be contained

in the general files and because of the small amount

of correspondence he does not feel that a general

file review would be feasible.

made available the files
concerning the National Rifle Association of America,
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C., which
include a letter dated April 7, 1953 from MERRITT A.
EDSON, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association of America to requesting that he
attend a meeting on April 20, 1953 at 10:00 a.m.,
"to explore all the factors involved in our advertising
policy as it pertains to enforcing the provisions of
the several Fair Trade Acts."

In this file there is contained a letter

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dated Apraccepting but point does not In this I American mediums I scopes, a discussion magazine.

trom
prion to attend the above meeting,
the Bausch and Lomb Company
leads contracts with its dealer's.
states, "however, since the
as one of the principal advertising
noculars, rifle sights, and spotting
initely interested in any general
the advertising policies of the

Webjorn National changing The also is a letter dated April 13, The also is a letter dated April 13, The above meeting.

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the According to
the stated that with this price list,
also sent to dealers and prospective
the conditions of sale.

letter

of the above price list and form ting forwarded as an enclosure.

advise partic years number which Compar throu: interiors are not available as to the sis produced and sold by units from the righ 1954. He made available the total and the dollar amount of rifle scopes sified by the Bausch and Lomb Optical is sights and mounts for the years 1949

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The following chart sets forth the number of units, the dollar value of sales of these items during those years

#### SALES OF RIFLE SIGHTS AND MOUNTS FOR YEAR'S 1949 THROUGH 1954

#### RIFLE SIGHTS \*

	DOMESTI	<u></u>	EXPORTS		
Year	Units	Amount	Units	Anount	
1954	1747	84,302.70	6	325.00	
1953	2162	105,620.89	8	437.00	
1952	3095	154,443.11	7	414.25	
1951	3672	184,673.20	10	498.87	
1950	3294	168,039.74	21	1,165.36	
1949	3315	167,267.99		one can use the	
		MOTTUTE			

#### MOUNTS

	DOMESTI	<u>C</u>	EXP	ORTS
Year	Units	Amount	Units	Amount
1954	1947	31,482.40	·8	134.59
1953	2723	44,141.92	9.	166,71
1952	3047	49,152.69	8	147.35
		ð	0-461	6 -

#### MOUNTS

#### Cont'd

DOMESTIC			EXPORTS		
Year	Units	Amount	Units	Amount	
1951	6025	65,142.86	ò	146.25	
1950	3743	90,429. <i>52</i>	23	146.25 391.25	
1949	2958	48,076.95	den eus		

\* FXCLUDES IRON RIFLE SIGHTS

on February 15, 1955. , Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, advised that he was invited by General EDSON to a meeting held at the National Rifle Association Headquarters in Washington, D. C., on April 20, 1953. He stated that from his files he recalls that he received a letter dated April 7, 1953 from General EDSON, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association of America, inviting him to the meeting to explore all the factors involved in the advertising policies of the National Rifleman as it pertains to the enforcing and provisions of the Fair Trade Acts. He stated that he accepted the invitation on behalf of Bausch and Lomb Optical Company with reservation and pointing out that the Bausch and Lomb Company does not have Feir Trade contracts with its dealers. He stated that the meeting was apparently motivated by the W. R. Weaver Company, which does have Fair Trade contracts with its dealers and

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of the W. R. Waavan Johnsony, falt that the American Rifleman should not accept the advertising which offered Weaver products at less then the Fair Trade prices. He stated that the other manufacturers entered complaints that the American Hillorgo was velaxing its long existing policy of probabiling the readers from false claims in advertising and the like. He recalls that Gen. EDSON pointed out that the National Rifle Association people could not possibly undertake to check all ads to make sure that the prices for Weaver scopes were within the Fair Trade contracts and it was up to the W. R. Weaver Company to enforce the contracts of Mirest estion with the individual dealers. arguel on the other hand that they could sine . Tery good record of having taken immediate action on any complaints received from readers concerning false claims and other types of dishonest advertising. He stated that to the best of his knowledge no conclusions were reached and no actions were decided upon. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, nothing was accomplished except it gave the individual advertisers a chance to make known their complaints. He added that to the best of his knowledge the meeting resulted in no conclusions and no action of any kind was taken as a result of this meeting. Stated that he could say with certainty that this meeting had no effect in the attitude or performance of the Eausch and Lomb Company.

stated that to the best of his knowledge or observation there never has been any kind of an understanding between the manufacturers in the scope and mount field on any subject. He pointed out that the rifle sight manufacturing field is known for the complete isolation of each manufacturer on all matters. He stated that he has no correspondence with the other manufacturers in this field and his only source of information concerning their activities comes from selesmen

sales outlets. also pointed car and that the American Rifleman is the best source of advertising by a manufacturer of scopes and mounts, and for this reason he does not think 1t would be probable that any manufacturer would refuse or threats to refuse to advertise in this publication. He states that this would also be true to a lesser degree in all outdoor type publications and added he knows of no threats by manufacturers to withhold advertising from any magazine because of retail prices quoted on mones and mounts in the retail advertisements of periodicals. We added that except for the incident that occurred on April 20, 1953, he knows of no complaints or objections made by any of the five manufacturers or by any distributor to a magazine because that magazine was carrying retail advertisements which offered to sell scopes and mounts at cut prices.

stated that because of the highly competitive field, he knows of the existence of no contracts or understandings between any of the five manufacturers and distributors or retailers of scopes and mounts which relate to:

- (a) Division of sales territories.
- (b) Price fixing or resale price maintenance.
- (c) Exclusive dealerships.
- (d) Other regulations of business activities conducted by independent resellers.

stated that he is not in

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possession or does he know of any documents relating or referring to scopes and mounts which disclose refusals by any of the five manufacturers to sell or deliver their products upon order of any distributor or the discontinuance of supplies to distributors or resale outlets or the reinstatement of retail outlets subsequent to termination of distributorships.

stated that he knows of no general understandings between magazine publishers or publishers and manufenturers that a particular course of action in the form of boycott was being purewed with regard to cut rate advertising of rifle scopes and manners.

on March 3, 1955,

available a memorandum prepared by

to him concerning his recollection of the meeting
held at the National Rifle Association Headquarters
in Washington, D. C., on April 20, 1953. This memorandum
is dated February 22, 1955 and is being forwarded as
enclosure.

The following exhibits were obtained and are being forwarded with this report as enclosures:

Exhibit I Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1949

Exhibit II Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1950

Exhibit III Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1952

Exhibit IV Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1953

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Exhibit V Annual report of the Eausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1954

Exhibit VI A manual of technical and practical information on the design and construction of telescopic hunting sights ... their performance and dependability

Exhibit VII Enviol and Good Rifle Sight price list dated May 22, 1951

Exhibit VIII Form Letter #86 of the Specialty Sales Department

Exhibit IX Chart of sales of Rifle Sights and Mounts for years 1949 through 1954

Exhibit X Letter of Major General MERRITT A.

EDSON to

Bausch and Lomb Optical Company

Exhibit XI Letter dated April 15, 1953 from to Gen. M. A. EDSON, Executive Director, National Rifle Association of America

Exhibit XII Letter dated Arril 13, 1953 to from Maj. Gen. MERRITT A. EDSVN

Exhibit XIII Memo of dated February 22,

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ADMINISTRATIVE

REFERENCE

Bureau letter to New York dated 2 5 46 16

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1	DATE WHEN	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY	b7C
SAN FRANCISCO	3/24/55	3/18,21/55		(A) naf
OF AFFLOODS	AND REPAIL ADVER ES AND HOURTS	Pisinc	CHARACTER OF CASE  ANTITHUST	
YNOPSIS OF FACTS:	THE STATE OF THE S	The State of the S	· <del>************************************</del>	·/- ·
4	San Francisco,	, Calif., advert	ised rifle scopes	and mounts
y whites, oune,	in Milleman from 1953 advertisin	about Dec., 195 re rejected abou	l to April, 1953 a	at cut rate
arvertising was	indicated rejecti 13 in best intere	ion for reason t ests of sportsme	hat magazine did r	act feel
aompany obtain	ied injunction at	- 500 - 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	enjoining opes and mounts at	
-		r continued ada	continue in America	THE THE PART .
recrimed to bo	unt where they d	15continued ent	discontinued as builted the handling	of those
facturers and	knowledge any co	Llective action	in this matter by	manu-
<b>1</b>		-RUC-		
DETAILS:				
i.	T SAN FRANCISCÓ,	CATTEVGSMIA.		
÷	n March 21, 1955			
	, advised that	in December, 1	751	a mail
	inscopes and mo			rtised
order odziness		3 : ()	60-4616	- 00
order odsiness		11000	- U L 37	4 4
order odsiness		1000000	10	38
order ous ness		60-16	16- 39	
Order odziness	SPECIAL AGENT	60-46	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACE	
MOVED AND COMMARDED: SIDESTROYEL	Mary IN CHARG	60-46	16-38	
PROVED AND	IS REPORT	60-46	16-38	5 .

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in the American Rifleran advertisements always listunder those suggested by the manufacturers.

until May, 1953 when the A. R. Weaver Company obtained an in Superior Court, San Francisco, California, which enjoined selling or advertising for sale at less than prices stated injunction certain file scores and mounts. There was a hear this injunction attempt to fight it and could not sell weaver products at less than the fair trade

advised that prior to the above mentioned s.

received a letter from the American Rifleman magazine
they had indicated that they were not going to run
adver
in the June, 1953 issue as they did not feel that to do so w
the best interests of sportsren

stated that after receiving this rejection a following the injunction obtained by Weaver they placed new accepts with the American Rifleman for the months of July throu October, 1953 in which the established retail prices were quot They discontinued these after October, 1953 as they received few responses and their sales fell off to the point where the continued this business entirely and they have not resumed it had to write back to their customers and tell them that they not sell them at a discount and they soon lost all of the business.

had while reins the above is the only trouble reins merchandise but bought only rom the distributors and not dire.

from any manufactures, never received any suggestions, or explanation from any replicator regarding advertisements to had no contacts with the man.

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and few contacts with other dealers in this equipment and had no knowledge of any collective action on the part of manufacturers and publishers with respect to the maintenance of retail prices on this equipment. The had only attempted to advertise in the one magazine.

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and.

that he has had no similar experience with this business.

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Buist to New York dated Transco

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

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-	PEPCRT	MADE AT	DATE WHEN	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY	<u> </u>	
Afternoon to be		SPRINGFIELD	3-30-55	3-23-55	SÀ		cjs
-	TITLE				CHARACTER OF CASE		. 1
-		DISTRIBUTION AN OF RIFLL SOUPES			ANTITHUST		
į					1		

SYNDPSIS OF FACTS

interviewed at Springfield, Illinois, on 3-23-55 and signed statement obtained in which he advised he has been unable to have advertising inserted in "The American Rifleman" since April, 1953, with one exception which was Several pertinent items of apparently due to anierror. correspondence obtained from the files of the "Rifleman" states the ads were refused because they were "not in the best interests of the National Hifle Association or shocting in general"; also because "it is our feeling that offerings of shooting equipment at less than established retail prices are detrimental to the orderly movement of such merchandise through regular retail channels, are a disturbing factor in the friendly relationships between established distributors and the National Rifle Association, and are otherwise contrary to the best interests and the Association, and shooting in general". says
"I believe that the 'American Rifleman' was forced to not accept my advertising because of pressure put on the publication by large manufacturers and jothers of scopes and However, I kan unable to prove this by any documentar evidence."

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<b>\$</b>		TO CO.	
APPROVED AND	SPECIAL AGENT	ENCLOS UN DO NOT WRITE IN	THESE SPACES
CHYCKED . WELDED		685 1616-4	RECORDED-90
328 АР' 2-Вызадатні	SREPORT	4-B amound	1 NDEXED
(3) - Bureau (R.M.) (	60-4616)(Enc.18 AMSD)	P APR 555	TX-112
2 - New York	(60-1107)		
1 - Springfi	eld (60-154)		
PIPS DESTROYED	ACTION TO ONLEY THE TOLK		And the control of th

er 50-151;

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DETAILS: AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Illinois (permanent address
Illinois) was interviewed on March 23, 1955. at that time he furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, I.l. March 23, 1955.

statement to who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Dureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to give this statement.

at Illinois. I can read and write the English language. I consider my permanent residence to be but also reside at Illinois. I am presently employed as at Illinois.

"Since the latter part of 1947 I have been operating a small mail order business buying and selling telescopic sights and mounts for guns. In furtherance of this business, I regularly advertised in 'The American Rifleman', the official monthly magazine of the National Rifle Association. My ads were not too big, usually, and were placed in the classified ad section of the magazine.

"Most of the ads placed in the 'American Rifleman' or This was a firm name I adopted for the following reasons: (1) To keep the W. H. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas (from whom I was purchasing scopes and mounts) from knowing that their customer, was in turn selling their product at less than their established list prices through the use of the name (2) I considered to be a good name to sell under inasmuch as it is easy to remember, at least much easier than

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"In June, 1950 I received a letter from Mr. F. A. Moulton of 'The American Rifleman' stating that they would no longer accept advertising from me inasmuch as they had received information from 'reliable sources' that I was operating a number of supply businesses under the names of several different individuals and firms. The letter stated further that 'we do not feel that it is in the best interests of the Association and its members for us to continue to accept advertising for the Rifleman from anyone who consistently operates under a number of aliases.'

"After several letters back and forth I managed to explain, apparently to the satisfaction of the 'American Rifleman', that I had from time to time used other names and addresses in carrying on my business but that practically all my advertising in the 'American Rifleman' had been under the name of the name I wanted to build up.

"In September, 1950 I received a letter from Mr. I.
F. Lucas, Eusiness Manager, National Rifle Association
of America, in which he advised the 'American Rifleman'
would again accept my advertising, beginning with the
Movember, 1950 issue, provided I would advertise only
under the name of
that I would 'remodel' a portion of my selling practices
in order to meet requirements of Fair Trade Laws.

"Things went along smoothly from that point until May, 1953 when the American Rifleman again refused to accept my advertising stating: The advertisement outlined in your letter of April 30th is not in the best interests of the National Rifle Association, or shooting in general.

"When I asked for more specific details as to why my advertising was unacceptable to the magazine I received another letter from Mr. F. A. Moulton of the American Rifleman' in which he stated:

As to the reasons for our letter to your of May 5th, it is our feeling that offerings of shooting equipment at less than established retail prices are detrimental to the orderly movement of such merchandise through regular retail channels, are

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'a disturbing factor in the friendly relationships between established distributors and the National Rifle Association, and are otherwise contrary to the best interests and objective of the Association, and shooting in general.

"I thereafter sent in several ads to be placed in the American Rifleman' but they were all returned, with one exception which apparently was an oversight on the part of someone. On May 3, 1954 I received another letter from Mr. Moulton in which he reiterated the policy of not accepting advertising from anyone who sold at quoted from this letter:

However, If we continue to make appoint exceptions to our current general policy of not accepting any alvertisements in the Hilleman offering scopes at less than established retail prices we shall always be running into special circumstances such as outlined in your letter. I have not been able to advertise in this magazine since then.

to reach potential customers for my scopes and mounts since it has the widest circulation among the gun enthusiasts who might be in the market for scopes and my advertising any longer, a great percentage of my off from contact with me. As a result I have been caught that a considerable number of scopes and mounts which I cosclete. This has caused me considerable financial

"I believe that the 'American Rifleman' was forced to not accept my advertising because of pressure put on the publication by large manufacturers and jobbers of scopes and mounts. However, I am unable to prove this by any documentary evidence. The 'American Rifleman' Riles will no doubt reveal correspondence from the W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas in which that company objects to my selling their product below their established

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"list prices. I have every reason to believe the objections filed by the W. R. Weaver Company with the 'American Rifleman' were the prime factors in the decision of the magazine not to accept my advertising any more. I recall a conversation I had in approximately 1951 with an official of the Morenouse and wells company of Decatur, Illinois in which this official stated in substance that he had been instructed by the W. R. Weaver Company not to sell me any more Weaver scopes as I had been cutting the price below the established list price. I cannot recall the name of this official of the Morehouse and Wells firm.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this page and three other pages and it is true.

Witness:

, Special Agent, FEI, Springfield, Illinois, Special Agent, F.D.I.Springfield, Illinois

The original of this statement is being retained in the Springfield file on this matter.

business of ruying and selling scopes and mounts quite by accident. He explained that some time in the wanted a scope for his own rifle and sent an inquiry for a price list direct to the W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas. When he received the price list he noted that the price per unit for three scopes was less than the price for one; that the price per unit for an order of eighteen scopes was even scopes with the thought in mind that would probably a profit, through the classified advertising section of The American Rifleman.

related this idea worked out even better than expected inasmuch as he was able to sell all of the eighteen scopes which he obtained from the Weaver Company and in fact, received orders for more scopes than the eighteen he had advertised. He therefore, ordered more scopes to fill these excess orders and again advertised these and others in the "Rifleman". From that point his business "showballed"

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to the point where he was regularly running an ad every month in the "Rifleman" until the difficulties arose outlined in the above statement.

as "brand new" and at less than the established retail prices the manufacturers would soon refuse to sell to him any more. Therefore, he adopted the subterfuse of using "aliases" in ordering his scopes from the manufacturers.

"used, perfect" and then quoted a price a few dollars less than the established list price for a similar "brand new" scope. Actually, however, he filled the orders for "used, perfect" scopes from his "brand new" stock in most cases as he was still able to realize a satisfactory profit by this method of operation.

However, Weaver apparently found out what was doing and began returning his purchase orders unfilled but with no explanation as to why his business was being refused. Not long after this he began to have his first difficulties with the "Rifleman".

was unable to locate any of the orders he had sent to weaver which had been returned unfilled nor could he locate any correspondence with Weaver on this matter. However said he distinctly recalled receiving a letter at one time from Weaver's attorneys asking him in effect to cease and desist his "unfair practices".

had a file of correspondence he has had back and forth with the "Rifleman" which file dates back to 1950. Pertinent documents from this file were photostated and are enclosed as exhibits with copies of this report going to the Eureau. It is noted to relinquish possession of the original documents at this time:

#### Exhibit Number.

#### Description

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Letter to from "The American Rifleman" dated June 2, 1950 beginning: "Information has been submitted to us..." This letter refuses to handla any more of agrees.

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Exhibit Number	Description
l-A	Copy of "Ad for July, 1950 - 'The American Hifleman'" which was refused by the magazine.
2	Five pase handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MCULTON from dated June 29, 1950, beginning: "In reply to your letter of June 2, I wish to say" In this letter offerstexplanation as to his use of "aliases" in carrying on his business.
A-2	"Ad for August, 1950 issue of 'The American Hifle-man'" publication of which was refused.
3	dated July 6, 1950, which begins: Ar. Mourton has passed along to me your friendly letter of June 29th as it involves a matter of policy" In this letter additional explanation is requested of the last to why he used "aliases" in the operation of his husiness.
# 1/2/2	Letter from "The American Rifleman" to dated July 31, 1950, which begins: "Although we recently received a very fine and interesting report from encourages to write concerning "the questions raised in letter to you of the 6th".
5	Four page handwritten letter to Mr. WRED A. MCULTUN from dated August 31, 1950, beginning: "This refers to letter of July 6 and to your letter of July 31" In this letter offers further explanation as to his use of "alleses" in the operation of his business.
6	Letter from Mational Rifle Association of America to dated September 18, 1950, which begins: "Your file pertaining to advertising in The American Rifleman' under the names of several different individuals and firms" This letter

#### BEST COPY AVAILABLE Exhibit Description Number states in substance that further advertising will be since he had agreed to "remodel" accepted from a portion of his selling practices in order to meet requirements of Fair Trade laws. One pare handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MOULTON from dated April 30, 1952 and which begins: "Attached is my ad for June, 1952...." "Add for June, 1952, The American Rifleman". This is considered as a typical example of the type of advertisement acceptable to the "American Rifleman". Postal card dated May 5. 1952 showing acceptemes of this ad by the "Filleman". 7-3 One page handwritten letter from Mr. FRED A. MOULTON dated March 29, 1903 which begins: "Attached is my ad for May, 1953.... "Ad for May, 1952 The American Rifleman". This is considered another typical example of the type of ad acceptable to the "Rifleman" Postal card dated April 2, 1953 showing acceptance of this ad by the "Rifleman". One page handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MOULTON from dated April 30, 1953, which begins: "Attached is my ad for June, 1953..." Written across this is the word "Refused". "Ad for June, 1953, The American Rifleman!". Written 9-4 across this is the word "Refused". Letter from "The American Rifleman" to dated May 5, 1953 beginning: "The advertisement outlined in your letter of April 30th is not in the best interests of the National Rifle Association, or shooting in general." It is noted, according to the rate card mentioned in the letter was not enclosed as indicated.

60-4616

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

	DE21 COLI VAMITHOTT	
Exhibit Number	Description:	
	Two page typewritten letter to "The cherican mirleman" from dated hay 9, 1:13 and teginning: "When I returned from a field trip today I found your letter of May 2, 1953," In this letter requests "just what way may I word my advertising to be acceptable by the 'American Rifleman'"	
12	One page typewritter letter from "The American Rifleman" to dated May 15, 1953 which begins: "We are extremely sorry for omission of copy of our current rate card from our letter to you of May 5th" The second paragraph of this letter states: "As to the reasons for our letter to you of May 5th, it is our feeling that offerings of shooting equipment at less than extensional retail prices are cerrimental to the ordering acceptant of such merchandical through regular channels, are a disturbing lactor in the friendly relationships between established distributors and the National Alfle Association, and are otherwise contrary to the best interests and objectives of the Association, and shooting in general.	
12-A V	Letter from F. A. MCULTON to tasted May 15, 1953 beginning: "Furely on a personal casis I am inclined to believe that the manufacturers of the scopes you still have on hand, in new factory condition, would be willing to purchase these scopes from you at exactly what you paid for them"	,
13	One page hardwritten letter to "The Massicen different dated May 30, 1753 which depins: "Attached is my check, amt. 013.00 for small July as, 1957".	
13-A	"AD for July, 1953, 'The American Bifleman'". This ad was enclosure to exhibit #12 and was refused by the magazine.	
14	One page typewritten letter from National Fine Association to dated July 2, 1953	

60-4616 - 4

SI 60-154

Exhi"	it.	BEST COPY AVAILABLE
Numbe	r	Description
	reiterates that	Your letter of May 30th, together advertisement" This letter "the acceptance of your advertisements in Rifleman' is not in the lest interest. Rifle Association."
15	1953 Which begin	tten letter to The Arms Chest, "The n" from dated July 31, selow, for Sept. desue."
15-A	Postal card dated of this ad for the think	August 11, 1953 showing acceptance the September issue of the "Milleman". Its somehody erred in accepting this
26 J	advertisements for	dated September 2, 1953 which with General Edson's letter to you ting that the acceptance of your the 'American Rifleman' is not in s of the National Rifle Association,
16-A	Copy of the "Ad for Eifleman'" which (Exhibit #16).	or October, 1953, 'The American ad was refused per the above letter
17	Four page handwrite man" from begins: "I am atta In this letter the "Rifleman" juissues"	ten letter to "The American Rifle- dated April 29, 1954 which ening a small ad with this letter" pleads to have an ad run in st for the one issue, if not two
17-A	"Arms Chest Ad for	
18		en letter from "The American Rifle-

One page typewritten letter from "The American Rifleman" to dated May 3, 1954 which begins: S1 60-11d

Exhibit Number

#### Description

"I can assure you that we are fully appreciative of the circumstances..." The second paragraph of this letter states: "However, if we continue to make special exceptions to our current general policy of not accepting any advertisements in 'The Rifleman' offering scopes at less than established retail prices we shall always be running into special circumstances such as outlined in your letter."

said that the only other magazine he had acvertised in was but had had very little response from these aus and so discontinued them. He also found ads run in other sporting magazines were unprofitable. He never had an ad refused by any magazine, however, except "The American mifleman".

ceal of the money he had invested in his scope stock and there speared to be little chance of selling these scopes since the readers of "The American Rifleman" were his principal, and, in fact, his only sales outlet.

ENGLOSURÉS TO BUREAU!

Exhibits numbers 1 through 18, as above described.

-RUC-

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60-4616 - 41

SI 60-154

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

#### REFERENCE:

Eureau letter to New York dated 3-10-55. Springfield letter to Bureau dated 3-23-55.

60-4616 = -41

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THE CASE ORIGINATED AT	W YORK		BEST COPY	AMMINDLI
REPORT MADE AT	MADE	78–10/55	REPORT MADE BY	57C
tme			CHARACTER OF CASE	
DISTRIBUTION AND RE	TANG ANVERTISIN	is in the second of the second	AUTITHUST	
OF ALFLE SCOPES ALT		-		
NAME OF THE PARTY			<u> </u>	· .
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS				
			CENCY, San Anto	
HILLO COMULANY NA	ndles advertisi	ng for STITH SC	CPES & MOUNTS.	advised he
Mad no knowledge	of any agreeme	ints by STITH wi	th other manula	cturers
regarding out ra	te advertisers;	laiso states na	d no direct, kno	wreate or
obtained:		Encuos naciones	integration	
. Outside.				
		- <u>Aŭo -</u> 12		* 5
DETAILS: AT SAN	AMTOMIO, TEKAS	3		
	0.22	- //-		
On Jur	e 8, 1955		of MYATE	DVERTISING
AGENCY, LOL Nava		a available ni	eille with resi	cot to the
STITH SCOVES ALL				a gradital organiz
Totalia concert	TOL MIG TESO	TAGEOL STIC AGO		
1000	≃eviswina tins	file. the follow	wing correspond	dence was
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3	o : , curududu	o cur crassirie	distant	edinorien
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- Bureau (60-1	intol (eucr. :4.6	Jes YIM A		
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	<b>心不是可以</b> 是不够有	<b>一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个</b>	-200	- AND

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#### ia 60-133

- 2. Letter to MISLAM, date a September 30, 1998, in a beginning, where politices agarded out price advertising are your own rusiness, but who appropriate our client's advertis a conscious and are remained.
- Stated to April 17, 1953, iron beginning, "I am opposed to our advertising in Laguarines which carry "cut-rate" cupy for the following reasons:"
- dated November 5, 1953, from the Land Research to Land the Land Sportstoner, beginning, and the Land Sportstoner 29th in regards to cooperating and the Land Research to cooperating and the cooperations.
- Action Action Action Action Action and Action Actio
- dated November 19, 1953, from ARIZONA WILDLIFE SCORTSUM: beginning, will am enclosing copy of my reply to be SIITH who wrote me in the 16th re tis-ins.

With respect to the above-listed correspondence, he was opposed to advertising in magazines which carried out-rate advertising fro: strictly an advertising man's point of view. He pointed out that advertising fell short of its mark when it was carried in a publication which carried advertising of a similar line of serchandise quoting prices client's prices. He said that in such a case, naturally at less than client were not best surved because the reader of the the interests magazines could compare the prices and, naturally, would buy from the company listing the cheeper price. He said that he did not know of any SCUPES AND FOURTS with any of the agreements between other manufacturers with respect to policies to be followed by the manufacturers and/or the magazines with respect to persons and companies who listed their products at a price less than that suggested by the manufacturer. He said he did anow, however, that He said he did know, however, that was strongly opposed to cut-rate advertisers; this subject and

With respect to the letter of September 10, 1952, from HUNTING AND FISHING magazine said that the was an unsolicited letter.

50

SL 60-133

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With respect to its I are of September 30, 1952, to F. A.

NYTHOR of the ARRECT HILLIAN, so will that this letter was written
by him from strictly an advert. I have point of view. He said that the
quarter-page advertore to its its letter was placed in the casazine of exactly the same page as a warner to a wordiser's ad which he scopes. He said that the coverth he all his client, the HID HOURTS, listed a promotion as an hor than that li aso by the out rate advertisar. For a la cases, he protested the placer of the ad and not the carming of allerate advertion of the MERTEL RIFLEMAU.

advertisors.

SPC. To a serior regardance to tand or a serior regardance of the serio with regard a correspondence to the real and all the will

Misting of managers conanyone could have assied of any porter ............

and that he did not know of thethy of any of the second of the the magazine care of the the magazine care out-He points at this TO CAY TO THE WAR AND THE TOTAL BOOMSE

SA 60-13

REFERENCE dated 3/28/55 at San Antonio

Bolet to San Antonio Cated 5/11/55

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60-4616 F# 60

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

(60-433)FEI, DETROIT

6/30/55

AIRECTOR, FBI (60-4616)

DISTRIBUTION AND REPAIL ADVERTISING OF RIFLE SCORES ATT MOUNTS; ANTI-TRUST

Re Minneapolis airtel to New York, 23 instant, cc Bureau and Detroit.

Investigation at Michigan. This company is a partnership not manufacture any rille scopes but woes manufacture such items as scope mounts, receiver sights, open sight bases and gun cleaning equipment. They also operate as jobbers of rifle scopes, guns, ammunition, and other items to make up a complete line of shooting accessories.

They have a mailing list of approximately 10,000 dealers, among the estimated 17,000 dealers in these lines in the U.S., selling both to jobbers and dealers.

handles scopes of Weaver, Stith, Lyman, and Unertal. Freliminary investigation reflects no pertinent data re alleged anti-trust violation; however, time available prior to Buded 7/1/55 not sufficient to search 24 drawers of correspondence. It is estimated that this can be done and report submitted 7/14/55.

Re paragraph 3 of letter from Precision Tool and G Shooters Supplies dated 5/24/55

for approximately 400 dealers, at

programuincluded no discussion of price fixing.

AIR MATE CPD: EAE

New York 60-1107

D. Rossii

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

BIST COPYERS

PAGE THO

He recalls mentioning in casual conversation discount selling by and company but states that made no agreement to cease doing business with them.

states no orders have been received from but has been and continues to be a customer of exhibited ledger sheets showing 24 shipments of orders from between 4/15/55 and 6/28/55.

6**u**-4616 -

KEPOHY MADE	•	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH N /20, -23/55	HADE REPORT MAD	COPY AVAILABI	l (A)
mu DIS	STON TRIBUTION RIFLE SCOR	5/24/55 10 AND RETAIL A PES AND MOUNT	DVERTISING	CHARACTER	OF CASE 570	
5YNOPSIS (		, Houston, ad	vised he h	of the	0/a	
rec ret red pri man tha	pes and mo eiving ord ailers". uesting the ces. ufacturers to the for the	denied havi	n Sight Connant to ng any fai received a or its ou list price and 1955	et forth. y "so-call rp. is the adhere to r trade ag ny warning stomers we s. Files were made	available, we	ing turer t cturers
			RUC -			
DET	AILS: AT	HOUSTON, TEX	AS			
Jun	ston, on e 23, 195	of the of	and 22, 19	755, Withouse would be		n re
		N'S R		60-4	616-	71
APPPOVED AN	7	SPECIAL AGE		DO NOT WRIT	E IN THESE SPACES	
	COPIES OF THE	<b>У</b> ватонт	ENCT.	- h-f-(- /		
	March - was a select	0-4616)(encls (60-1107)	Standor		RECO	ORGED 3

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was no listing in the telephone directory for the however, it was determined that this organization was needed, Texas.

On June 23, 1955

at by SA's and

stated that , and that the business known as the was started sometime around that he had been collecting guns, scopes, mounts, etc. It is to be noted that hobby prior to employed by the Houston, Texas, and He also stated his business was on a nationwide scale, but that only about 30% of his business was obtained outside of a hundred mile radius of stated most of his lusiness was obtained Houston, Texas. through personal contacts, and that he had previously advertised in the American Rifleman and the Sporting Goods Dealer, but that he had voluntarily withdrawn his advertising about year ago because marital difficulties had arisen

for the following manufacturers of rifle scopes, and furnished the following approximate percentage of each brand sold to the total of all brands:

The Lyman Gun Sight Corporation ---- 80% Middlefield, Connecticut

The Pecar Gun Sight (Through Sumpter, South Carolina)

Hy-Score Arms Company - - - - 10% 25 Lafayette Street; Brooklyn 1, H.Y.

D. P. Bushnell & Compan, int 4 6 16 - 5 - 57 860 Bushnell Building, Pasadena, Calif.

Unertl Optical Company --- Only on 3551 East Street sold in Pittsburgh, Fennsylvania year

но 60-126

## 'Best copy available

advised that of the above mentioned rifle scope manufacturers, only the Lyman Gun Sight Jorporation and the D. P. Bushnell and Company, Inc. are competitive pricewise. He stated the "Hy-Score" scope is a higher priced scope and that "Pecar" scope is of German manufacture, is of a different type of construction, and is therefore not competitive with the others.

of scope mounts were suppliers and save the following approximate percentages of sales:

Orinda, California

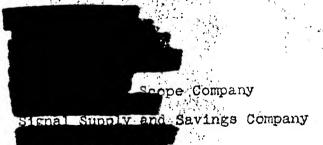
(Echo nousts)

Boise, Idaho

Gun Sight Company Davison, Michigan

Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

denied receiving orders for scopes from and of the following "so-called price cutting retailers":



He denied that he has ever refused to sell scopes to any retailer because that dealer was selling or advertising at prices below those suggested by the manufacturer.

denied having any fair "trade agreements" with any of the alorementioned manufacturers, who supply him with acopes and mounts. He stated that all of his manufacturers formshed him with a suggested list price either by stating the actual suggested list price, or showing the retail price less the jobber's discount. However, the D. P. Bushnell & Company like indesent have a jobber's set in an actual therefore pays the same for the bushnell scores and he were er does.

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stated that at . . . . is the way only the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation would require min adhere to the suggested list price. This opinion of was based on the fact that he heard the Peden Iron and I Sueel Company, Houston, which deals in hardware and sporting goods, complained to the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation when he was giren a Lyman distributorship. He further state to the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation informed him that if he mace to sell at less than the suggested list price which the Paler Iron and Steel Company was following, they would have to all dealership rather than lose the Peden account. stated he had heard rumors, the source of which recall, that Peden and other jobbers have sold at less than list price on several occasions.

advised that resale prices are subject as mutual understanding and there are no agreements with the manufacturers to control resale prices.

is conveyed to them by the manufacturers' consumers price lists, and when specifically asked by the retailer, he would tell them what the consumer's price should be.

does not "police" retailers' prices.

He maintained that if retailers sold at less than list price, he would tell them they were silly to do so because they were losing money, and that they should limit their competition to services rendered. He further stated he would not take any action, and amplified this remark by saying, in the past it has bean brought to his attention that retailers have sold at lower than list price and when he received this information, he did not take any action nor did he report it to the manufacturer.

denied he has ever been warned by the manufacturer that the or its customers were selling below the manufacturers list price. He denied corresponding with manufacturers regarding retailers selling "off list", and he also denied that any understandings exist between the and the manufacturers that the jobbers will not resell to retailers who deviate from the manufacturers' suggested list prices.

to give stated the following manufacturers have refuse for their products:

Redfield Gun Sight Compans (6317 Hipta Street, Penyer 5, Colerado

HO 60-104

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permit for this company was that in Mag, 1995, they informed him that they felt they were adequately represented stated, nowever, that in February, 1955, he had received correspondence from the Redfield Gun Sight Company in which they stated they were satisfied with the present distribution of their products in the Houston area. He was unable to explain their sudden change in plans.

Pachmeyer Gun Works, 1220 South Grant Avenue, Los Angeles, California

This company refused to sell trees as a jobber, and would only sell to him as a dealer; was at a loss to understand this viewpoint since he deals strictly on a wholesale basis.

W. R. Weaver Company El Paso, Texas

The reason given by the Weaver Company for refusing was that they had sufficient distribut-

his files for the years 1994 and 1953. The correspondence contained in those files which was deemed pertinent to this investigation is set forth as enclosures herewith.

ENCLOSURES: TO BUREAU - Photostatic copies of the following:

Six (5) letters from the Redfield Gun Sight Company to the Texas Gun Clinic dated 9/3/52; 7/8/54; 9/8/54; 1/31/55; 2/9/55; 5/13/55.

Elegical letters from to the Redfield diff sight Company dated 6/25/54; 7/28/54; 9/3/54; 1/3/95; 1/21/55; 3-bage letter 2/5/55 (2/25/55 (and attached list of lines handled by the basis); 3/18/55; 4/21/55; 5/14/55; b/15/55.

One (1) 6-page petition circulated by during the month of June, 1955, C Various recallers in the

HO 60-126

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Houston area re availability of Redfield Gun Cipproducts in the Heuston area; availability of proby the and opinions of the ret Redfield products were jobbed by the Texas Gun C

,b**e**d

Three (3) letters from W. R. Weaver Co. date: 9/4/52; 7/1/54; 1/31/55.

Three (3) letters from the W. R. Weaver Company daved 6/25/54; 12/10/54; 1,

RUC

60-48

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но 60-126

#### REFERENCES

Bureau letter to New York, 6/13/55
Bureau airtel to New York, 6/22/55

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

MILWAUKEE, WIS. 6-27-55 6-16, 20, 21-55

TITLE

DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF

RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS

THE ANTITRUST

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ARMS CO., Milwaukee, are authorized jobbers for the Lyman Loope and the Norman Ford, but obtains Weaver scopes for its retail trade from an authorized Weaver jobber in Red Wing, Minn. Weaver scopes comprise 95% of sales; Lyman 4% and Norman Ford 1%. Leas no knowledge that his retailers engage in cut-price sales. That has no agreement with manufacturers, and manufacturers have placed no restrictions on him. The has no knowledge that retailers have been refused advertising in sports magazines. No evidentiary correspondence obtained.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

#### AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

By letter dated June 13, 1955 the Bureau transmitted a copy of a memorandum dated June 9, 1955 from the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, which requested that certain information and evidentiary material be obtained from a jobber or dealer in rifle scopes, inasmuch as allegations have been made that possible violations of the antitrust laws may exist in connection with the distribution and advertising of rifle scopes by five of the largest manufacturers of such rifle scopes.

## 60 - 4616 - 73

###OVED AND POWER OF THE CHARGE DO NOT WRITE IN THE PACE

### COPIES DESTROYED

### 28 APR TOTIES ABFORT

3 - Bureau (60-4616)

2 - New York (60-1107)

1 - M11waukee (60-180)

PROPERTY OF PRI-THIS DEPORT IS LOANED TO YOU BY THE FRI, AND REITHER IT NOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY.

#### BEST CODY ANA

dus iness 4435 W. : April 1,

the sporting goods business and the firearms test 15 years. He previously had his shop at the ve., but has been at his present location since

and deale: an authors approximat scopes, bu dealer.

authorized ... understanding many Weaver with as much that

come an auti dealership stadditional Job: Weaver scopes that he bills for the loading

of jobber and re

outlined on page

Ford rifle s is the Weave Ford brand. the Lyman Co. scope for \$49. stated that the considered con 4.00 power sco

The present ret is as follows:

stated that he has been authorized jobbe lynan scopes for approximately three years, and and dealer for the Norman Ford (Texan scopes) ear. He stated that he also handles the Weaver edirect basis nor as an authorized factory et he obtains his Weaver scopes from the Red Wing Minn, the latter being an stated that he has an furnishes him with as so that eding equipment as he requires. He stated the same price that the factory charges him and that he applied to the Weaver Corp. to bobber, but the Weaver Corp. refused him a st their output was not big enough to add stated that bills him for the mough the Weaver co. would bill him, and

> stated that he acts in the dual capacity a the scopes line.

tame as though the Lyman Co. would bill him

re the answers as requested from questions : memo of the Attorney General:

the Lyman, the Weaver and the Norman te stated that 95% of his scope sales the Lyman brand, and 1% the Norman stated that about one year ago the market with their "All American" oder to meet Weaver competition. He Ford and the Lyman rifle scopes are price-wise, in the 2.5 and the

- list of the scopes which he handles

60-4616

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MI 60-180

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Trade Name	Power Model	Retail Price	Date of Price List
Norman Ford	2.5	\$36.00	11-1-54
	4.00	42.50	11-1-54
Lyman	2.5	\$45.50	1-1-55
	4.00	49.50	1-1-55
Weaver	2.5	\$37.50	3-1-54
	4.00	45.00	3-1-54

has never received any orders for rifle scopes from the so-called price-cutting retailers identified on page three of the Attorney General's memo to the Director dated June 19, 1955.

He stated that he has never had any trouble with retailers and at the present time he services primarily metropolitan Milwaukee area and occasionally has a retailer in up-state Wisconsin. He stated that he has approximately twenty to twentyfive retail accounts. He has no knowledge that the retailers whom he services sell rifle scopes other than at the fixed retail prices, which are fair traded, and which prices are fixed by the scope manufacturers. He stated that if the retailer wishes to sell the rifle scopes for less than the fair trade price, it does not concern him, and it merely means that the retailer is making a smaller profit. stated that he has never refused to sell rifle scopes to any retailer, whether or not this retailer abides by the fair trades price or whether he uses cut price methods. stated that he has never been told directly or indirectly by anyone to sell rifle scopes to certain exclusive retailers.

grand to purchase of rifle scopes from manufacturers, he stated that the Lyman and the Norman Ford manufacturers are not governed by the fair trade laws, but that the Weaver scopes are governed by the state fair trade agreements. With regard to sales of scopes, all three brands and all three companies send a suggested manufacturer's price list with their merchandise, and the manufacturer conveys this knowledge of this suggested resale price to the jobber by sending along price lists when merchandise is ordered by the jobber. Stated that the jobbers' discount is based on the manufacturer's list price. He stated

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that the suggested manufacturer's price list is not binding on him at all, and that he is free to make his own price to the retailer if he is willing to take a cut in profit.

stated that no agreement exists between himself and the manufacturers. He stated that his position is that of a jobber, and that he places an order for rifle scopes at his pleasure and that no restrictions are placed on him as to whom he is to sell these rifle scopes stated that to his knowledge the manufacturers do not communicate with retailers, and retailers obtain the resale prices and suggested lists from the jobbers. He stated that to his knowledge manufacturing firms do not attempt to police retailers' prices. He stated that should any information reach him that certain retailers to whom he sells are selling rifle scopes at cut-rate prices, he would do nothing about these methods.

authorized jobber have never given him any warnings that it or its customers were selling below the manufacturer's suggested list price; he has never corresponded with manufacturers regarding retailers' selling "off list" and he denies emphatically that any understandings exist between him and the manufacturers that he will not resell to retailers who deviate from the manufacturers' suggested price list.

stated that he knows of no retailers who have ever been denied advertising in sporting magazines and periodicals because of the retailers practices of advertising rifle scopes "off list".

made available his files, and no correspondence letters or memoranda either from the manufacturers or to the manufacturers was located which has any bearing on this case.

stated that although he has the dual capacity he has never had the opportunity of engaging in advertising in such advertising space has ever been denied any other jobbers or

- RUC - 60-4616 - 73

MI 60-180

REFERENCES: Bulet to New York dated June 13, 1955, cc #11mauxee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

60-4616 - 73

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT	NEW YORK		BEST COPY AVAILAB
BALTIMORE	DATE WHEN MADE	/27;7/5/55	REPORT MADE BY
DISTRIBUTION A	ND FETALL ADV		CHARACTER OF CASE  ANTITICUST  OF CASE  ANTITICUST
5" NOPSIS OF FACTS:	PJI.	••••	* **** m***
regularly hand El Paso, Texas written for socied, Conn. I transactions with and has never a tategory. First schtrol resale prices. Wilson	les only rifl, with only a opes of the L Has no knowle ith any of the refused sale in has no agreeprices and mand Pugh Co	e scopes of small number yman Gun Sig dge or recorded of scopes to ement with takes no attempany has ne	firm, advised he the W. R. Weaver Company or of special orders the Corporation, Middled of any business price cutting retailers any retailer of that the manufacturers to mpt to police retailers wer been warned by
suggested price	es and there not resell to	is no agreem	were selling below ent or understanding that ho deviate from manu-
the firm will refacturers' price	es and there not resell to	is no agreem retailers w - RUC -	ent or understanding that
DETAILS: AT Company	cumberland, M	is no agreem retailers w - RUC - ARYLAND ge Street, a he only pers available re	wilson and dvised that on connected with the cords or information
DETAILS: AT Company 2	cumberland, M	is no agreem retailers w - RUC - ARYLAND ge Street, a he only pers	wilson and dvised that
Suggested price the firm will reference price facturers price facturers price for June 27, 195	cumberland, M	- RUC - ARYLAND ge Street, a he only pers available re	wilson and dvised that on connected with the cords or information

BA 60-156

concerning this matter. She said, was presently recuperating from a serious skull fracture and would not be available until July 5, 1955, at the earliest.

Wilson and Pugh Company, 26 South George Street, a wholesale hardware firm, advised on July 5, 1935, that his company has handled only Weaver Scopes, manufactured by the W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas, for general business since January 1, 1949. During this same period, he has written a very small number of special customer orders for Lyman Scopes, manufactured by the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, Middlefield, Connecticut. He said that 98% of his sales are Weaver Scopes with the Lyman product making up the remaining 2%. The Weaver Scopes are considered competitive, pricewise.

stated that to the best of his knowledge, his firm has never received orders for scopes from any of the following so-called price cutting retailers:

Iowa
Illinois
Colorado
Scope Company,
Illinois
San Francisco, California
Pennsylvania
Central Investment Company, Prineville, Oregon
, San Francisco, Calif.
Colorado
New York
Pennsylvania
Maine
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Massachusetts

Manchester, New Hampshire

Cumberland, Maryland.

None of the above firms, he advised, have been carried on the books of Wilson and Fugh Company and if any of them did deal with his firm such dealings would have been cash transactions over the counter and so no record of such dealings would be available. Wilson and Fugh has never refused to sell scopes to any retailer because that dealer was selling or advertising at prices below those suggested by the manufacturer, or for any other reason except possibly that of a retailer's inability to properly meet his financial obligations.

. Cumberland, As for the said he does not know operated by no to the best of his knowledge he has never seen him. are carried on Merruel rue the books of warson and rugh Company. has never established his credit with the firm and so. if any sales have been they have been or the To the pest or howledge, he has cash transactions. never refused business.

recalled that indirectly he had some trouble with approximately a year ago. At that time, he received a long distance telephone call from the W. R. Weaver Company and was advised that a second of Cumberland had notified them that Wilson and Pugh tompany were calling Weaver products to the general public at wholesale prices. Acvised W. R. Weaver Company that sales were made only to those licensed to sell and a request was made for the names of those individuals to whom the firm reportedly sold and who were not properly licensed to buy at wholesale. No names were made available, he said, and no additional word was heard from Weaver concerning the matter.

further stated that although he recognizes Weaver product as fair trade items, he could not recall and he has no record of ever having entered into a fair trade agreement with the manufacture Both Weaver and Lyman scopes are sold by Wilson and Fugh Company under the manufacturers' suggested list or dealer prices. Suggested resale prices are conveyed to Wilson and Pugh Company by the manufacturers dealer guotation sheets which are in no way binding

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EA 60-166

upon the wholesale firm. Resale prices are merely a matter of notual understandings between manufacturer and Wilson and Pugh.

advised that he makes no attempt to police retailers' prices. In the past, when such action has been requested by a retailer, has advised them that Wilson and Pugh Company is not a police agency and cannot police retailers' prices. No action has ever been taken against any retailer by Wilson and Pugh Company when notice is received that the retailer is selling below list prices.

Wilson and Pugh Company has never been warned by either W. R. Weaver Company or the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation that it or its customers were selling below the manufacturers' suggested price. There has never been any correspondence with either of the manufacturers concerning retailers selling "off list", and there is no understanding with either of the manufacturers that Wilson and Fugh Company will not resell to retailers who deviate from the manufacturers' suggested prices.

advised that he has no documents or factual information in his files relevant to the subject matters discussed.

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Bureau letter to
Bureau airtel to
Baltimore radiog

Tated 6/13/55.
Tated 6/22/55.
Teau dated 6/27/55.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORD NO. I	YORK CITY	لتسسيا	BEST COPY AVAILABLE		
REPORT MADE AT LUUISVILLE	DATE WHEN MADE 6/29/55	FERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/24/55	REPORT MADE BY	(A) mmb	
O DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISE RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS		SING OF	ANTITRUST		
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  Belknap Hardws and tools, and sportling	nd Manufactu	ing Company, larg	e wholesaler of hard purchased 2885 rifl	ware, e scopes	

- RUC -

during 4 years ending 5/1/55. Most of these rifle scopes purchased from W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas, and are resold by Belkmap on a "fair traded" basis. Search of available correspondence files (2 years),

DETAILS:

Investigation herein was conducted at the request of a letter from the Director dated June 13, 1955, which transmitted to this office a letter to the Director from STANLEY N. BARNES, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, dated June 9, 1955, The investigation at Belknap hardware and Manufacturing Company, 111 East Main Street, is in compliance with the June 9, 1955, Departmental request.

At Louisville, Kentucky

failed to reveal anything of interest.

for Belknap

85. DISTRIBOTED OU

Hardware and manufacturing Company, supplied the following information on June 24, 1955. This company is one of the country's largest wholesaler of

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hardware, tools, sporting goods, paints, plumbing materials, farm implements, electrical appliances, cutlery, dishes, furniture, and related items. They serve 30,000 customers throughout the central and southern states. Rifle scopes and mountings account for an infinitesimal portion of its sporting goods sales and consequently, they do not push the it or make any effort to "keep its finger on the pulse of this particular industry."

Belknap's available purchase records extend back only 4 years ending may 1, 1955. From these records reported Belknap's rifle scope purchases for these 4 years have been:

- 1. Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, Middlefield, Conn. They do not stock scopes from this company but order a few upon receiving orders from customers. They may have purchased 10 or so during the last 5 or 5 years, primarily the cheaper ones for -22 caliber rifles.
- conn. This firm makes scopes for rifles they menufacture and Bel map's handle these rifles as well as the scopes. For the 4 years ended May 1, 1955, they purchased a total of 755 Mossberg scopes of two different kinds.
- 3. W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texus, sold Belknap 2120 scopes of 19 different kinds during the 4 years ended May 1, 1955. This company's scopes are the only scopes which Belknap stocks for general use on various makes of rifles.

Belimap does not sell scopes to the price outting retailers since these firms attempt to buy them direct from manufacturers at cheaper prices than afforded by this jobber. Further, this firm has rejected no orders for scopes from any of its 30,000 customers except for credit reasons.

Belknap handles the Weaver scopes on a "fair trade lasis, notifying the customer by its printed catalogue as to the retail price but making no effort to ascertain if the purchaser charges its customers the proper price. Weaver notifies Belknap by a price list the three different costs, i.e., cost to jobber, cost to retailer, and cost to ultimate purchaser. This price list is published by Weaver when price changes occur and in b. lieved to have last been revised in August 1954.

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doubts if they sell many scopes to retailers for stock but get erders only when the retailer has made a sale or has a good prospect.

The never to his knowledge, been furnished a "fair traded" agreement.

Belkmap depends upon its printed prices in its catalogue carried by all of their salesmen and supplied to many of their customers as a mesms of notifying their retail customers concerning the retail prices of rifle scopes. Belkmap makes no attempt to police the retailers in any fashion. They have never been advised that their retailers are selling scopes at cutrate prices. Should they be so advised, they would be very hesitant about notifying the manufacturer and probably would not do so because they know that the first thing the manufacturer would do would be write a letter to the retailer advising him of his improper pricing practices; and divulging the fact that Belkmap was the source of their information. This would cause Belkmap to jeopardize other business with such retailers which would be far too great a price to pay over such an insignificant item as rifle scopes.

recalls no correspondence from W. R. Weaver Company advising that any of its customers were selling below the manufacturer's suggested list price. Belknap does adhere to the manufacturer's published prices insofar as their purchase price is concerned and their jobber price to the retailer. It is the belief of that probably the retailers adhere to the price published by W. R. Meaver Company in selling to their customers. Belknap has no idea who, arong their 30,000 customers, have purchased scopes and could secure such information only by a search of their sales invoices which number several thousand each day.

Belkmap retains its correspondence with manufacturers for a period of two years only. The correspondence between W. R. Weaver Company and Belkmap for the two years ending May 1, 1955, was reviewed and nothing of significance to this investigation was found. In this correspondence were two letters from W. R. Weaver Company indicating that during 1953, Belkmap purchased a total of about \$24,000 in rifle scopes and during the year 1954, purchased approximately \$21,000 of rifle scopes.

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFIRENCE: Bureau letter dated June 13, 1955.

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Mr. Tolson Mr. Boardman Mr. Nichols Mr. Belmont DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF Mr. Harbo RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS; ANTITRUST Mr. Mohr. -50**-1**:516 Mr. Parsons Mr. Rosen. beasive inverti ablo. conducted based Mr. Tamm additional Division request of 1/31/35.Mr. Sizoo lamental regressa reclived and investiMr. Winterrowd. on most recent request completed ration Tele. Room results of our investigation presented Mr. Holloman to France For, W., by Attorneys of Antitrust Division. Wie case involves alleged effort Miss Gandy Division. c case involves alleged efforts by certain market others of rifle scopes and mount; ร้อ อากาจิกเว็ก กั it which these products are distributed and sold to Wie mablic. It appears that publishers and soid to be madic. It appears that publishers programs magazines have it the request of manufacturers refused to according to the request of manufacturers refused to according to the result of the request of the result these of the according cut being "(official publication of the attended the "according "Field and Stream;" published by senry holt and Company, ew Y. "Cutdoor Life," published by Popular Critice Publishin Company, lew York; "Hunting and Fishing," published by functing and Fishing Publishing Corporation, Chicago; "Sports Afield," Wash Post and Published by Hearst Corporation, New York; and published by Hearst Corporation, New York; and "Fur-Fish-Came," published by A. R. Garding Publishing Co., Columbus, Chio. Manufacturers Times Herald Wash. News Wash. Star L involved include V. R. Meaver, El Tasc; Eausch and Y. Herold Lomb, Hochester, dY., Stith Scoves, San Antonio; Tribune Tribune Untertl Optical Company, Fittsburgh; and Lyman N. Y. Mirror . Gun Sight Corporation, Middletown, Connecticut, Daily Worker The Worker le Association Head THE EVENING STAR B-19 New Leader Washington, D.C. enties Price-Fixing) Date ine Co. New York, pub-of "Outdoor Life," and indinital Morton C. cepting advertising Hubbahitis Co. New York, published for the president of the Commission of the County and Hubbahitis Co. New York, published for the Commission of the Commission of the County and Hubbahitis Co. New York, published for the Commission of Content defendant are Lyman "Field and Stream."

The indictment alleges they agreed among themselves to boy-content of the prices and concern the County of Hispanian of County W. B. Welver of E. Paso. County alleges they agreed among themselves to boy-county had control and the manufacturers of prices and to exclude their advertising a conspiracy to the price and control advertising in sporting magazines of County Recommendant and the price and to exclude their advertising a conspiracy to the price and control advertising in sporting magazines of County Recommendant and the indiction of the price and to exclude their advertising and the price and the price and to exclude their advertising and the price and 60-4616 ing in sporting magazines of thing the telescopic sights. He association publishes a waste fact it ed "American females." BEST COPY AVAILABLE NOT RECORDED or sensit of the basceistion," miral Manine said. "I in-126 NOV 22 11955 minut dont the charges."
What possible motive bould hon mont public service as-6 8 NOV 301955

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boordman
Mr. Nochols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pasen
Vi. Tanin
Mr. Signs
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holkinga
Mr. Holkinga
Mr. Ganly

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(INDICTMENTS)

A FEDERAL GRAND JURY HERE INDICTED THREE PUBLISHING COMPANIES.
THREE MANUFACTURERS OF RIFLE SCOPES AND ONE DISTRIBUTOR TODAY ON
CHARGES OF OPERATING ILLEGAL BOYCOTTS TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN RETAIL
DEALERS FROM THE INDUSTRY.

THE INDICTMENT, ANNOUNCED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL, SAID THE
EFFECT OF THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY HAD BEEN TO STABILIZE RETAIL PRICES
OF OPTICAL RIFLE SCOPES.

IT SAID THE MANUFACTURERS CONTROLLED SO PER CENT OF THE NATIONAL
DPTICAL RIFLE SCOPE MARKET. THE SCOPES -- TLESCOPIC SIGHT -- ARE
MOUNTED ON RIFLES AND EMPLOY OPTICAL GLASSES FOR MAGNIFICATION.
PUBLISHING COMPANIES NAMED IN THE ACTION WERE THE MATIONAL RIFLE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D.C., PUBLISHER OF AMERICAN
COUTDOOR LIFE; AND HENRYCHOLT AND CO., NEW YORK CITY, PUBLISHER OF
FIELD AND STREAM.

OTHERS NAMED WERE LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORP, MIDDLEFIELD, CONN.; W. R.
MAHUFACTURERS -- AND M. JACKSON-STITH, SAN ANTONIO, TEX., A DISTRIBUTOR;

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2 EQ.1 1955

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Office Memorandum . UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DATE: "INV. Belmoo Herbo **BEST COPY AVAILABLE** Tama William was an all mars merent field with the SUBJECT : The second second second tage a situator to  $\sim$  20 and au matter on 11/17/65. Notice The least turbers by cause a traduitti on a tractor with 1111 before reference to the discount approxithe tettire on 11/1 (15. The in outs a time bill will be rule as move conducted to but halve investigation in this abla based on the original Antitrust Division request of 1/31/55. Several loners I requests a very our ricely. I mushwastip time or sec rest recent request was completed 9, 1755. The results of ear tive that Livisia. This case involves alleged crioris by certain menalactic rifly so was and mounts to control prices at which thise products. distributed one sole to the public. It is ears that sublishers of corts n impazing have so the request of monufacturous refused to seventising of firms which attempted to sell thisse or ducts at out The publications involved include the Wherican Riflemen's a publication of the National wifle Association); "Field and Stream, willish by Henry Holt end Company, New York; "Outdoor Life," oublished by Tomalar Science Funlishing Company, Waw York; "Hunting and Fishing," published by Hunting in Figures Publicating corporation, Chicago; "Sports After," published by Hearst Comporation, New York; and "Fur-Fish-dame," published . a. Harding Publishing Company, Columbus, Onio. FNCL. Tenaracuaries involved include W. A. Wenver, all isso; for ea end Look, auchestur, Lew York; Stita Scopes, San untobio; Untert" Optical Sectiony, Pittsburgh; and Lynan dun Signt cornoration, Middlet wn. Connecticut. The officent Division attorney wid not indicate which of the epoys especies he thought would be included in the indictment by the 18 : 67" RECORDED - 87 6 D - 41 1 1 2" Grand Jany. 11/15/55 IT WAS AMounced This is for your information. 17 NOV 17 Austracked

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(INDICTMENTS)

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THE INDICTMENT ANNOUNCED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF OPTICAL RIFLE SCOPES.

OF OPTICAL RIFLE SCOPES

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FOR MANEDIATE RELEASE

NOV 15 1955

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STATE AVAILABLE

Attorney General Herbert Brewnell, Jr., announced that a federal Trianglem Mr. Winterrowd.

Jury in Washington, D. C., today indicted four corporations and three Miss Gundy individuals on charges of violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act in connection with the sale and advertising of optical rifle scopes. Named as defendants are the following:

Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middlefield, Conn., a manufacturer;
W. R. Weaver, El Poso, Texas, a manufacturer;
John Unertl, Pittsburgh, Pa., a manufacturer;
M. Jackson Stith, San Antonio, Texas, formerly a
manufacturer's exclusive distributor;
The Wational Rifle Association of America, Washington, D. C.,
an incorporated association and publisher of the magazine
"American Rifleman";
Popular Science Publishing Company, Inc., New York City,
Publisher of the magazine Sutdoor Life"; and
Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York City, Publisher of
the magazine "Field & Stream."

"Scopes" are described as telescopic sights, employing optical glasses for magnification, mounted on rifles to enable more accurate aim than would be possible with metallic sights. Used extensively in hunting and target shooting, they are becoming increasingly popular with sportsmen. During 1954, retail sales exceeded \$5,000,000, with defendant manufacturers accounting for approximately 90 percent of all scopes manufacturered in the United States.

60-4616

The grand jury charges the defendants with combining and conspiring among themselves and with others to exclude so-called "off-list" dealers from the industry and to boycott them in a manner which has resulted in rejection of their advertisements by outdoors magazines. "Off-list" dealers are those who sell to consumers at less than the manufacturers' list prices

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S

Mr. Harbon

Mr. Miller

The objectives of the conspiracy are alleged to have been accomplished by means of an understanding, among the defendants, effectuated by refusals to supply off-list dealers, coercion of distributors to adhere to resale prices and to refuse to sell to nonconforming dealers, and the advertising boycott. The over-all purpose of these activities is stated to be stabilization of retail prices.

Assistant Attorney General Stanley N. Barnes, head of the Antitrust Division, said:

"This case, which alleges exclusion of certain retail dealers from the rifle scopes business, presents issues involving both vertical price fixing imposed by the scope manufacturers and boycotts by the manufacturers and publishers against advertising of dealers who charge less than the manufacturers' list prices. Criminal action is instituted, in this instance, in line with the announced policy of the Department of Justice to seek indictments against violators wherever per se violations of the antitrust laws are considered to exist."

SAC, New York (60-1107)

Hovember 18, 1959

Director, FBI (60-4616)

PISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS ANTITRUST

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Attorney General on 11/15/55 announced that a Grand Jury at washington, D. C., on that date indicted the following for violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Ast:

Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middleffeld, Conn., a manufacturer; W. R. Weaver, El Paso, Texas, a manufacturer

W. R. Weaver, El Paso, Texas, a manufacturer; John Unertl, Pittaburgh, Pa., a manufacturer; M. Jackson Stith, San Antonio, Texas, formerly a manufacturer's exclusive distributor;

The National Rifle Association of America, Washington, D. C., an incorporated association and publisher of the magazine "American Rifleman";

Popular Science Publishing Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Outdoor Life"; and

Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Field & Stream."

Washington Field, which has not conducted investigation in this matter, is being made office of origin to follow and report prosecution of this matter in USEC, Washington, D. C.

New York, which has been origin, should submit an RUC report with the title changed to include names of above defendants. Furnish a sport of section 109

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:			H7C			
Letter received	from	- comont is	in	which he	<b>st</b> ated	
that he had place Rifleman" in No.	vember and	December	1955; h	owever, h	e had	
received a lette advertisement for	er from the results or January	nis magazir 7. 1956.	ne refusi:	ng his pr	oposea	•
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<u>DETAILS</u> :					61	
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- Bureau (60- - New York: (6	0-1107		a superior	AND REPORT		m-

AN 60-26

Colo.

Dec. 14, 1955

"Agent

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"Dear Sir,

Rifleman for the months of November and December, 1955 both of which were run as nequested. However I mailed in an ad. to be placed in January 1956 issue, which was not accepted.

"Am enclosing letter I received from the Riflemen this date.

"I moved back to Colorado in August due to ill health; if necessary for you to get in touch with me, my address is:

Colorado.

"Have noticed in December Rifleman magazine that they have been indicted along with several others. Will be glad to help in any way possible in this matter.

"Sincerely,

"/8/

The enclosed letter referred to by is dated December 7, 1955, and bears the signature F. A. MOULTON, "American Rifleman." The contents of the letter are as follows:

60-4616 = 111

AN 60-26

"We prefer not to accept your advertising for publication in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, so our Accounting Department is sending you under separate cover our own check for \$4.80 in reimbursement for the advance payment remittance enclosed with your letter of Hovember 26th."

ENCLOSURE TO THE BUREAU: (1)
(FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE ANTITHUST DIVISION)

A letter dated December 7, 1955, directed to Colorado, Colorado, American Rifleman."

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AN 60-26

#### REFERENCES

tter to New York dated March 10,

SA at Amenorage dated

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60-4616 = 114

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

SAC, Vasaington Field

January 16, 1956

Director, FBI (60-4616)

LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORPORATION: ET AL. ANTITHUST

BEST COPY AVAILABLE Attached for each office is a copy of an Antitrust Division memorandum dated 1/12/56 which requests certain investigation in preparation for the trial of this matter. Letters addressed to the companies to be contacted are also forwarded herewith.

All offices except Portland have previously conducted investigation in this matter under the caption "Distribution and Retail Advertising of Rifle Scopes and Mounts; Antitrust." It appears that Portland will not require any additional background information to handle the present request. As indicated in the attached memorandum, a Grand Jury in the District of Columbia on 11/15/55 indicted four manufacturers and three publishers. Washington Field has been made office of origin to follow and report prosecution. All persons contacted are to be advised that the investigation is being conducted at the request of AAG Barnes, Antitrust Division. The fact that they were so advised need not be set out in reports.

Attention of all offices is directed to the fact that this matter is scheduled for trial on 2/15/56. The investigation requested by the Antitrust Division must be given preferred and continuous attention to permit completion of all investigation and submission of reports to reach the Bureau not later than 2/8/50.

COMM - FE Jan 1 6 1957 Enclos cc: 2-Dallas (60-237), with enclosures (2) MAILED 1 2-Indianapolis (60-219), with enclosures (2) 2-Los Angeles (60-471), with enclosures (3) 2-New York (60-1107), with enotonurbat 2-Pittsburgh (60-343), With enclosures 2-Portland, with enclosures (2) 2-San Francisco (60-4/3), with enclosures

JKP:1ge, L (20).

Farenns

Office Memorandum . UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Mr. Michols DATE: Feiruaru SUBTECT : HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY, INC. BEST COPY AVAILABLE PUDPOSE: Per : r. Holloman's instructions to briefly set forth information concerning pending antitrast investigation in which captioned or enization is involved. DETAILS: In January 31, 1955, at the request of the Department the Surea: opened an antitrust investigation in which captioned organization is a subject. The investigation was completed and reports were furnished to the Department. On November 15, 1955, an indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury, Washington, D. C., charging three publishers Wational Rifle Association. publisher of The American Rifleman, Oropular Science Publishing Company, publisher of Outdoor Life, and Henry Molt and Company, publisher of Field and Stream) and Jour manufacturers of rifle scopes for conspiracy to prevent retail price cutting in the tale of these rifle scopes. Since the indictment, the Bureau has been requested to conduct additional investigation. latest request having been received from the Department February 13, 1956. This investigation is now being conducted. All subjects have entered pleas of not guilty, and the case is scheduled for trial in Mashington, J. C., on May 28, 1956, COLUENDATION: For information. 60-4616 cc - Mr. Holloman Fr. Rosen (A. 3 A FEB 23 1956

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

. 1	Form N THIS CA	0.1 ISE ORIGINATED AT WASH	INGTON FI	ELD		170	
	REFOR	LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN	#24,27-29/56	REPORT MADE BY	Die	(A) JAD
	TITLE	LYMAN GUN SIGHT	CORPORAT	TION; ET AL	ANTITRUS	ST	
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LA 60-471

#### DETAILS:

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On
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Ruediger rif;
Otto of Hilde
scope is a hu
market on Apr

vaomi Avenue, Arcadia, tailiornia, advised many has not sold any rifle scopes. It the present time, he is promoting the which is manufactured wholly by Otto and est Germany. He stated that the Ruediger age and that he expects it to go on the

be of assista.

inable to furnish any information that would is investigation.

On } was interviewe lowing signed

24, 27, 29, 1956, February 29, 1956, he furnished the fol-

> "Pasadena, California February 29, 1956

free and identifie Federal Bushave been I realize

make the following
who has
to me to be a Special Agent of the
Investigation. No threats or promises
me in order to obtain this statement, and
stement can be used in a court of law.

resently employed by

at

and I presently reside California.

california items. My was in the Pasadena Firearms Company, Pasadena, company dealt in firearms and related nterest at Pasadena Firearms Company of firearms

factured sidomestic brany difficulthe sales

the United States, and they carried all do not recall that this company had the various manufacturers regarding regarding these scopes.

67-4616 - 148

23. Feb. -471

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"It was my intention of disposing of these immentation and disposing of these immentations and disposing of these immentations." of ads in trade magazines. At that time : did not communer myself to be a dealer in rifle stopes and was only immediate in turning my guns into cash. During the early part w I had accumulated several scopes which I had obtained in the trades for guns. I placed an so in the American Rifleman. This ad was run in the edition and appeared we

It read as follows:

Callfornia.

result of this ad I received inquiries at all hours of the night, and as a result I decided never to place an ad reflecting my true name or home address.

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3-60-46

LA 60-471

more rifle scopes, and I again sent in an ad to the American Rifleman. This ad was the same as the previous one which was run in the edition; however, on this occasion the ad was refused by the American Rifleman. They told me I could not advertise the rifle scopes as new ones despite the fact that all of the scopes I was advertising were brand new. When I agreed to run the rifle scopes as second hand articles and described them as perfect the American Rifleman accepted the ad. This ad was run on and read as follows:



"For the purposes of this ad I rented a box in California, and used name."

"In about I again tried to run an ad in the American Rifleman. This time they sent back my check and told me they would not run my ad under to conditions stating that my ad was in violation of Article IV of the General requirements applicable to classified advertising. According to the March, 1954 edition of the American Rifleman, Article IV reads as follows:

"'Transactions Based on Good Faith: Deliberate misrepresentation, or violation of the codes of good sportsmanship and good business ethics, will constitute grounds for refusal of advertising, and may result in disbarment from N.R.A. membership.'

"I do not have any of the correspondence relating to the placing of these ads in the American Rifleman. I believe I must have destroyed all documents relating to this advertisement; however, I recall corresponding with FRED A. MOULTON who was in charge of advertising for the American Rifleman.

During the same period I also placed ads similar to the one I placed in the redition of the American Rifleman in the Shotgun News. I had absolutely no difficulty In placing these ads.

LA Game?

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attorney and had been retained by W. A. Weaver wasputt to file suit against we under the feir trade i correspondes with State of California. Appeared to the office to conference regarding unis matter William this conferment I was given the a ternative of the role all of the mosni Weaver scopes I sad in my lesess .. of deline to court. I appred to return the se as the nich weight out wat to go to the expense of 3.7 corner. T sell reaven the accies ! country ... [8] 1 10 AES7世紀 Jobbe: 'S TIME price : : the matter I accepted such as offer

At later received a letter cased in which he enclosed a control a some latter riginal and two copies of a stipulation and a copy of judement and permanent injunction. I exercised the and copy of the stipulation and returnet it to office, together with the 26 weaver scopes which I had possession. I received a sweak in the amount of \$579.2 these scopes. At this time I so dos have any records in nosensation reflecting a breakdout on the scopes Ligave to but I estimate that I lost epocatimately \$150. T selling these scores to weaver at the deber's list price instead of the price at which I was divertising the not know if ever filed the above-mentioned legal document. ments in any court. Personally did not appear is court, and told me that he would hardle the entire matter. I have made available to for photostating pur the pertinent documents pertaining to the suit brought again me by for W. R. Weaver Company.

"I have maintained no records covering the sales of the above-described rifle scopes. All of my sales were made through mail orders.

"At this time I do not know how much money war received from the mail order sales of these scopes."

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

60-4616 - 148

LA 60-471

"I have read this statement which consists of this and four other pages. I have initiated each page and the last two paragraphs of this statement are in my own handwriting. The information I have furnished in this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7/8/

"Witnessed: Special Agent, F.B.I., Los Angeres - 2/29/55."

ads in the editions of the American Rifleman together with Article IV as set forth in statement, were copied from conies of these publications at this time.

advised that sometime prior to May, 1955 he sold a weaver rille scope to through a mail order. It does not recall the exact details of this sale but stated that when he received first letter regarding the suit, he recalled naving sold a weaver scope through a mail order.

The documents pertaining to the suit made available by for photostating purposes are the photostats described as enclosures to this report.

During the course of the interview with the interviewing Agent observed no data which would cause him to be lieve that would be anything but a reliable witness in this case.

On Pebruary 28, 1956, the records of the county Clery for Los Angeles County reflected that in Civil Case # a complaint under California Pair Trade Act - Injunction was filed by W. R. WEAVER, dba W. R. Weaver Company, against on in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles. On the State of California in regarding injunction was filed.

signed the judgment and permanent injunction and this deciment was filed on these documents are being made available to the Departs.

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 $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-4616}$   $^{-148}$ 

### ENCLOSURES:

:.;

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

To the Bureau for transmittal to the Antitrust Division

- 1) One copy of the signed statement of
- 2) Two photostatic copies of a letter dated 3, 2-/55 from to
- 3) Two photostatic copies of a letter dated 4,7 55 from to to
- Two rhotostatic copies of a letter dated 4/12 55 from to
- 5) Two photostatic copies of a letter dated 5/2 25 from to
- 6) Two photostatic copies of the complaint file: 11 WEAVER against under California Pair Trade &c
- 7) Two photostatic copies of stipulation regarding injunction.
- 6) Two photostatic copies of a summons.
- 1) Two photostatic copies of judgment and personal injunction.

. Rus. -

LA 60-471

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

It is being noted that there is only one witheas to signed statement. No other witness was available at this time.

It is being noted that in their letter dated 2/10/56, regarding the interview of the Department requested that the interviewing Agent make a statement regarding the reliability of as a witness in this case.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated 2/16/56.

Bureau letter to washington Pield dated 2/16/56.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FED	ERAL/BUREAU	OF INVES	·		•
ASHINGTON FIELD	WASHINGTON FIELD	1/30/57	1/18/5		
TIRE OF CASE	RATION: W. R.	Report made by		(A)	Type ME
EAVER; JOHN UNERTL; EE MATIONAL RIFLE A ERICA; POPULAR SCI	SSOCIATION OF ENCE PUBLISHING	CHARACTER OF CAS	PIC		
EMPANY INC.: HENRY	'HOLT AND COMPANY, nd Retail Advertisi	AN ng	TITRUST	<b>5.14 56.</b> 20.20	
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WF0 60-531

Lyman Gunsight 100 \$4000
W. R. Weaver 4000
John Unertl 2500
M. Jackson Stit 1500
The National Rif ociation 2500
of America
Popular Science hing 2000
Company, Inc.
Henry Holt and Company Inc.

The above am of \$18500 has been paid in to

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13:6 - 160

WF0 60-531

### ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

A copy of this report is being designated for the New York Division for info purposes.

REFERENCE:

b70

Report of 1956, at Washington, D. C.

dated February 7,

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60-4816 - 160

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Rifle Sight Trust Suit Is Settled

5

Attorney General William P. Rogers announced Friday the entry of civil antitrust consent judgment which he described as "successfully terminature a civil antitrust suit in which the Government alleged mone plistic practices in the mai a neture, distribution and adversing of telescopic sights. for intes.

The Government charged in The Government charged in an action filed in February, 1956, that a group of manufacturers and the publishers of the couldoor magazines had an agreement to eliminate trem the business zo-called "ch-list dealers" not adhering to manufacturer's list prices. The consent judgment-appoint in United States District court here Friday enfoings cord in United States District, Court here Friday enjoins in price-fixing for telescopic sichts or any discrimination cainst supplying "of-list" in the publishers are necifically prohibited from relating advertisements of the Her.

The decree was entiped against these publishers Namal Rifle Association of America, Washington, publishing American Rifleman Political Science Published and Henry Holl Miles New York, publishing the Life," and Henry Holl Miles. New York, publishing the Miles of the Miles of

it also salled to the facturers Lyman Gorp. Middleman McWeaver, El Pago

John Doril, Pillson Jackson Stith formarie er's exclusive

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60-4616

Wash. Post and Times Herald Wash, News Wash. Star . N. Y. Herald Tribune N. Y. Journal American N. Y. Mirror N. Y. Daily Ney N. Y. Times Daily Worker:

The Worker New Leader

V 18 1957



## Department of Jusius

Attorney General William P. Rogers announced the entry today, in the Federal District Court in Washington, D. C., of a consent judgment successfully terminating a civil antitrust suit, filed on February 29, 1956, charging seven defendants with violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act in connection with the manufacture, distribution, sale and advertising of rifle scopes. Scopes are telescopic sights mounted on rifles for the purpose of aiming more accurately.

The defendants in the complaint were:

Lyman Gun Sight Corporation; Middlefield, Connecticut,

manufacturer; W. R. Weaver, El Paso, Texas, a manufacturer;

John Unertl, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a manufacturer; M. Jackson Stith, San Antonio, Texas, formerly a

manufacturer's exclusive distributor;

National Rifle Association of America, Washington, D. C., an incorporated association, and publisher of the magazine

"American Rifleman"; Popular Science Publishing Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Cutdoor Life"; and Henry Holt & Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Field & Stream."

The complaint charged that the defendants engaged in a combination to eliminate "off-list dealers," who do not adhere to the manufacturers' list prices, from the scope business. It was alleged that the defendants agreed to demy off-list dealers access both to suppl appropriate advertising media, and that the defendants acted in implementation of these agreements? 2006070 - **8**0

The final consent judgment entered today enjoins the manufacturing defendants from any agreements to fix or maintain prices or to cut of

off-list dealers from their sources of supply or from advertising media, or to limit them in these respects; from any individual conduct aimed at price fixing or interfering with off-list dealers' access to supply and advertising; from all fair trade agreements for a period of seven years; from certain publicity and advertising for a two-year period. In addition, any manufacturing defendant who engages in consumer advertising is ordered to sell scopes, on non-discriminatory terms, to off-list dealers. The defendants publishing outdoors magazines are subject to injunctions against agreements aimed at refusing advertisements of off-list dealers; and, for a period of 10 years, against individual conduct for the same purpose.

Assistant Attorney General Victor R. Hansen, in charge of the Antitrust Division, in commenting on the judgment, said:

"Attempts to control prices and to exclude competitors by practices such as those alleged to have been employed by these defendants have long been held to be illegal and cannot be tolerated in our free enterprise system."

06-4616 - 161

### GUNSIGHT-CORPORATION OF AL ANTITREET (Fufile 60-4516)

Burea Frase closed. Seven defendants entered Not a Corporating plans and were sentenced 1-4-57 to fines satalis, \$48,500.

tte Telesa
Mr. Talson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mont
Mr. Pots- nr
TWM: Hown L
Mr. Tarin
Mr. T.otter .
Mr. 'iease
Tel: Room
ar. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCE THE FILTING OF A CONSENT DECREE OF ENDING CIVIL ANTI-TRUST CHARGES ACAIMST SEVEN DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF FIGLATIONS IN MANUFACTURE, SALE AND ADVERTISING OF RIFLE SCOPES.

THE DEFENDANTS WERE ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN A COMBINATION TO PUT

"OFF-LIST DEALERS" -- TROSE THE DO NOT ADPERE TO THE HANDFACTURER'S LIST PRICES -- CUT OF THE SCOPE RUSINESS.

SCOPES APP. TELESCOPIC SIGHTS YOUNTED ON RIFLES FOR THE PURPOSE OF

AIMING GOFE ACCURATELY. THE DEPENDANTS NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT WERE: LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORP. HIDDLEFIELD, CONN.; V.R. WEAVER, EL FASO
TEX. A MANUFACTURER; JOHN UMERTL. ELITSBURGH. FA. MANUFACTURERS;
M. JACKSON STITH, SAN ARTONIO, TEX. DISTRIBUTORID MATIONAL RIFLE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, WASHINTON, D.C.: UPOPULAR SCIINCE FURLISHING
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, WASHINTON, D.C.: UPOPULAR SCIINCE FURLISHING
FURLISHED OF THE MAGAZINE FIELD AND STREAM.

THE CONSENT JUDGMENT, FILED IN DISTRICT COURT HERE, FORBIDS ANY ACREMENTS TO FIX OF MAINTAIN PRICES OF TO CUT OFF THE SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF OFF-LIST PLALERS.

DEFENDANT VACAZINES WERE ENJOINED FROM REFUSING ADS OF OFF-LIST

DEALERS.

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60-4916

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.						
	Deletions were made pursuant to the exem release to you.	ptions	indicated below with no segregab	le material available for			
	Section 552			Section 552a			
	□ (b)(1)		(b)(7)(A)	□ (d)(5)			
	□ (b)(2)		(b)(7)(B)	□ (j)(2)			
	□ (b)(3)		(b)(7)(C)	□ (k)(1)			
			(b)(7)(D)	□ (k)(2)			
			(b)(7)(E)	□ (k)(3)			
			(b)(7)(F)	□ (k)(4)			
	□ (b)(4)		(b)(8)	□ (k)(5)			
	□ (b)(5)		(b)(9)	□ (k)(6)			
	□ (b)(6)			□ (k)(7)			
o o	Information pertained only to a third party request is listed in the title only.  Documents originated with another Governments			·			
	for review and direct response to you.  Pages contain information furnished by a to the releasability of this information fo  Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final rele disposition at a later date.	llowin	g our consultation with the other	agency(ies).			
	Pages were not considered for release as	they	are duplicative of				
	Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):						
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57C

SAC, Washington Field Office

From:

Director, FBI

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

BUDED: 10/31/68

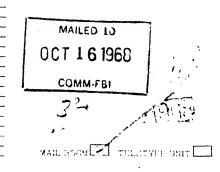
Enclosed for Washington Field are two copies of a Criminal Division letter dated 10/14/68 requesting investigation to determine whether the captioned organization should have registered with the clerk of the House of Representatives.

It will not be necessary to check with the clerk of the House of Representatives. According to the Criminal Division of the Department, this association is not registered with the clerk of the House of Representatives.

All interviews with officials of the National Rifle Association should be conducted by two mature Agents and persons interviewed should be advised that this investigation is being conducted at the request of Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. The requested investigation is to be expeditiously handled and a completed report submitted to reach the Bureau on or before 10/31/68.

Enclosures (2)

CTG: bap



REC-28/19-64-2

To:

SAC, Washington Field Office

From:

Director FBI

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

ReBusirtel 10/16/68 and Butelcall 10/23/68.

Enclosed are two Xerox copies of a Criminal Division letter dated 10/23/68 requesting that interviews of officers of the National Rifle Association be delayed until further advice is received from the Department. WFO should discontinue investigation pending Bureau advice. Surep reflecting investigation conducted to date.

Enclosures (2)

CTG:bap (4)

NOTE: Supervisor Weshington Field Office, was telephonically advised on 10/23/68 by Supervisor

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DeLoach	
Bishop Casper Callahan Contrad Felt Gale	
Rosen	•

SP)

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# October 34, 1968 GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case where the Department, by letter dated 10-14-68, requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with activities concerning gun registration legislation. Washington Field Office has been instructed to hold investigation in aneyance pending further advice from the Department.

CTG: hw

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Deletions were mad release to you.	le pursuant to the exemptions	indicated below with no segrega	ble material available for
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		(b)(7)(D)	□ (k)(2)
		(b)(7)(E)	□ (k)(3)
		(b)(7)(F)	□ (k)(4)
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□ (b)(5)		(b)(9)	□ (k)(6)
□ (b)(6)	•		□ (k)(7)
request is listed in t	the title only.		our request or the subject of your were referred to that agency(ies)
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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1982 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOV: IMENT

## Memorandum

то

Director, FBI

DATE:

10/22/68

FROM

SAC, WFO (119-49) (P)

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

(00:WFO)

ReBuairtel dated 10/16/68.

Inquiry at National Rifle Association revealed FRANKLIN L. ORTH, Executive Secretary, is with the Olympic Team in Mexico City and will not return until after 10/28/68.

WFO will submit report to reach Bureau by 11/7/68.

2 - Bureau 1 - WFO

REG 45

EVS:mer (3)

17 OCT 23 1968

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STH

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD	
WASHINGTON FIELD	WASHINGTON FIELD	10/29/68	10/17-28/68	
TITLE OF CASE		REPORT MADE BY		TYPED BY
NATIONAL RIFLE AS	SOCIATION	CHARACTER OF C	ase GULATION OF LOBBYING	ejj G ACT
REFERENCES:	Buairtel to WFO WFO letter to Bu Bureau airtel to	reau dated	10/22/68 上水	·

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### **ENCLOSURES**

### TO BUR FAU

1967 Operating Report NRA audit report dated 12/31/66 May 1967 issue of "The American Rifleman" NRA Bylaws

		ACC	OMPLISHMENT	S CLAIMED	II NO	DNE	ACQUIT-	CASE HAS BEEN:		
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			· )					PENDING OVER ONE YEAR PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	YES XNO	
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COVER PAGE

HEO 119-49

NRA Official Directory 1968-1969 3 Legislative Bullentina 3 NRA Form Letters

### ADMINISTRATIVE

All persons interviewed were advised this investigation was being conducted at the remest of FPED M. VINGON, JR. . . Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

Inquiry at National Rifle Association of America revealed FRANKLIN L. ORTH, Executive Vice President, was with the U.S. Olympic Team in Maxico City and would not return to Vashington. D.C., until after 10/28/58.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

, 57C

Report of: Date: SA-10/29/68

Field Office File #:

119-49

Office: Washington, D.C.

Bureau File #:

Title:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Character:

FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

Synopsis:

FRANKLIN C. DANIEL, Secretary, NRA, advised their legal counsel informed them NRA contacts with members of Congress does not come under the Lobbying Act. He and FRANKLIN L. ORTH, Executive Vice President have contacted and been contacted by numerous members of Congress regarding legislative matters in the field of conservation, sport shooting and hunting, inasmuch as NRA is expected to have the technical know-how in these fields. NRA has no outside lobyists but individual members of NRA are encouraged to contact their respective Congressmen and Senators.

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 10/23/68

D1C

Mational Rifle Association of America (NRA), 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. SA advised Mr. LUCAS of the nature of the inquiry. He was also advised that he did not have to make any statements; any statements that he might make could be used against him in the court of law; he had the right to consult with an attorney before making a statement and that he did not have to talk with the agents. He was furnished a Waiver of Rights form which he read and signed.

Mr. LUCAS stated that in addition to himself, the other officers of the association are: HARGLD W. GLASSEN, President, WCODSUN D. SCOTT, Vice President, FRANKLIN L. CRTH, Executive Vice President, FRANK C. DANIEL, Secretary. He stated that Mr. GLASSEN and Mr. SCOTT are honor officers and serve without pay. Mr. CRTH would be in charge of the MRA.

Mr. LUCAS stated that regarding contacts with various Senators and Congressmen he could only speak for himself. He stated he has had no direct contacts with any Congressman or Senator regarding pending legislation. He pointeded out, however, that he is well acquainted with several Congressmen and Senators and has been in contact with them but not regarding legislative matters.

Mr. LUCAS stated that the NRA is a non-profit organization whose primary effort is in the behalf of social welfare. It is considered to be in group 501C-4 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Mr. LUCAS stated that no person or company has been hired by the NRA to lobby against gun legislation. NRA hired Infoplan, 605 3rd Avenue, New York City from April, 1966 to

	ashington, D. C.	File# <u>VFO_1</u>	19-49	
b C-SAS	and			
by	EVS:crb	Date dictated	10/23/68	

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WFO 119-49

March, 1968, to sell to the public the program of the NRA and to counteract unfavorable newspaper publicity. This organization was not in direct contact with any newspapers or Congress as representatives of NRA.

Mr. LUCAS advised that NRA notified members of NRA regarding the various pending legislation through a magazine entitled "The American Rifleman," speeches made by officers and Legislative Eulletins. Members of NRA are asked to do what they can to advance the program of NRA.

Mr. LUCAS made available the May, 1967 edition of "The American Rifleman," which on page 93 has a membership application. There is nothing in this advertisement wherein solicitation is made of members where they were informed that dues received would be used to support opposition to gun control legislation.

Mr. LUCAS also furnished the audit report of the association for the year 1966 made by STUY, MALONE and Company, CPA's, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D. C. He pointed out that this statement shows that for the calendar year 1966 \$150,083.19 were spent on a public relations campaign. amount, \$112,479.81 went to Infoplan for fees and expenses. \$10,000 was used for a float in the Rose Bowl Parade and \$10,954.98 was for sponsorship of a Freedom Foundation Gate at Vally Forge, Pennsylvania. The same financial statement indicated that \$58,204.14 was used for legislative expenses. \$22,598.18 of this amount was used for Legislative Bulletins and \$32,739.70 for salaries. The phamplet Legislative Bulletin is mailed to members in a certain area where there is pending legislation of a state or county in which NRA has an interest. These bulletins set forth the NRA's opinion regarding legislation. He further pointed out that the Public Relations Committee of NRA makes policy for NRA.

Mr. LUCAS further advised that several members of Congress are either past or present members of the association. Two of them are members of the Board of Directors. The NRA

WFO 119-49

3 has often appeared before various committees on proposed legislation and it is the opinion of the officers of NRA that they are not lobbying.

Mr. LUCAS furnished the following documents: Bylaws of The National Rifle Association of America; 1968-1969 official directory; May, 1967 issue of "The American Rifleman"; audit report of NRA as of December 31, 1966; 1970 Operating Report; three Legislative Bulletins; three letters sent to all members regarding proposed legislation. 1

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date\_10/23/68

FRANK C. DANIEL, Secretary, National Rifle Association of America (NRA), 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. SA advised Mr. DANIEL of the nature of the inquiry; that he did not have to make any statement and any statement that he might make could be used against him in court of law, and he had the right to consult with an attorney before making any statement. He was also advised that he did not have to talk with the agents unless he so desired. He was furnished a Waiver of Rights form which he read and signed.

Mr. DANIEL advised that the NRA is well aware of the lobbying act and on the advice of legal counsel, was informed that the activities of NRA did not require them to register with the Congress or Senate as lobbyists.

Mr. DANIEL stated that the MRA is expected to have technical know-how in the matters of conservation, sport shooting and hunting and are contacted on an almost regular basis by Congress. He pointed out that there are several members of Congress listed as members of the Board of Directors. He stated that he personally has contacted numerous members of Congress and in turn been contacted by numerous members of Congress regarding matters of pending legislation. These contacts were usually by telephone. Often Congressmen call and want to introduce certain legislation and request NRA's help. Other times Congressmen are contacted and furnished NRA's opinion regarding proposed legislation. The NRA has testified before various committees of Congress regarding matters within this field.

Mr. DANIEL stated that he and Mr. FRANKLIN L. CRTH, Executive Vice President, contacted members of Congress as part of their job to promote the beliefs of the MRA. They are not

On 10/22/50 at	Washington, D. C.		_File#_WFC_]	19-49	
SAS SAS	and	EVS:crb		10/23/63	
by	i.		_Date dictated_		

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is lagned to your agency; It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WFO 119-49

2 paid for this other than their yearly salaries.

Mr. DANIEL stated that
Office of Public Relations, has no contacts as
such with members of Congress. He has, however, helped prepare speeches for numerous Congressmen when so requested. He
pointed out that any number of employees of NRA could be acquainted with Congressmen and receive request from Congressmen
for information. He and Mr. ORTH are the primary persons contacting members of Congress. He knew of no group of people
hired to lobby for NRA before Congress.

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Public Relations, National Rifle Association of America (NRA), 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. SA advised of the nature of the inquiry and that he did not have to make any statements and any statements he might make could be used against him in a court of law. He was also advised that he could consult with an attorney before making any statements and he did not have to talk with the agents unless he so desired. He was furnished a Waiver of Rights form which he read and signed. He furnished the following information:

3

NRA is to get out news releases to newspapers, radios and the like to promote sport shooting, hunting, and conservation. General interest stories as well as speeches are prepared for dissemination to the news media. NRA has had a Public Relations Office for the past twenty years. Infoplan was given a contract in 1955 to get wider coverage in the fields of home and hunting safety. He advised that he did not contact any member of Congress and no employee in the Public Relations Section would regarding gun legislation. It is not their responsibility to solicit help from Congress so, therefore, it is not done. The NRA has no paid lobbyist. He did point out, however, that on request from various members of Congress the Public Relations Office would assist members of the legislature in preparing testimony.

On 10/22/53	at Yaghing≑on, D. C.	File#_VFC113-49	
DO SAS	and EVS:crb	10/23/53	

AIRTEL

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To:

SAC, Washington, Field Office (119-49)

From:

Director, FBI (119-64) —5

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

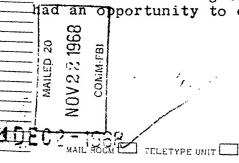
ReBuairtel 10/24/68.

Enclosed for the Washington Field Office are two copies of a Criminal Division letter dated 11/19/68 requesting that National Rifle Association officials be interviewed on approximately 12/3/68 in the presence of the Association's General Counsel. The two requested interviews and record review should be handled in accordance with the request of the Criminal Division and a report submitted promptly thereafter.

Enclosures (2)

CTG: bap (4)

NOTE: The Criminal Division of the Department by letter dated 10/14/68 previously requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should be registered with the clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with activities concerning gun registration legislation. This investigation included interviews of officials of NRA. Shortly after the investigation was initiated, the Criminal Division by letter dated 10/23/68, requested the Bureau to hold the investigation in abeyance until the Criminal Division had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the General Counsel.



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Jule L Rosen

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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To:

SAC, Washington Field Office (119-49)

From:

Director, FBI (119-64)

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

Reurairtel 12/9/68.

Washington Field Office should discontinue further investigation in captioned matter. The Criminal Division of the Department has advised that according to the General Counsel of the National Rifle Association, this Association has indicated it will register as a lobbyist with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

CTG: bap (4) 504

NOTE: The above information was furnished to Supervisor on 12/10/68 by Criminal Division Attorney is forwarding a confirming

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FEDERAL	REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT		
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In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington Field Office, Room 506 Old Post Office Building

> Washington, D.C. 20535 December 9, 1968

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

On December 9, 1968,
National Rifle Association, advised a Special Agent
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he has been
trying to contact Fred M. Vinson, Jr., and
of the Department of Justice, regarding instant matter and
has been unsuccessful in contacting them. He advised he
would notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 10,
1968, when the interviews with Franklin L. Orth and Harold
Glassen of the National Rifle Association will take place.

December 13, 1968

b/C

Washington

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter on December 11, 1968, and to thank you for your offer of assistance.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

MAILED 20 DEC 1 3 1968

COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

I Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

CTG/1rk, (3)

3E 119-64 8

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

1 DEC24 1968

MAIL R. M. PULITIYE CONST.

### NOTE

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent.

### TRUE COPY

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I understand that you are investigating the National Rifle Association. As a member of that organization, I wish to inform you of my whole-hearted desire to cooperate with your investigation. I beleive that neither the N.R.A. nor the vast majority of its members have anything to hide.

Sincerely,



112C 39

TRUE COPY

Down 7722. Hower, I understand that you are intestigating the national Rifle association. Che a minter of that organization, I wish to inform you of my whole-himilial disme to cooperate with your incertigntion. I be live that neither the n.R.C. mor the west majority of the monders have anothing to hide.

Minter Sinceres BC

## GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case, which recently received considerable press coverage, wherein the Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We have interviewed some officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The General Counsel of NRA is now delaying our further interview of two officials as well as examination of NRA financial records pending his consultation with the Department. The Department being advised of above in writing. Washington Field Office has been instructed to keep the Bureau advised of further developments.

CTG: bap

### FBI

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	as above.	Enclosed are four copies of LHM dated and ca	ptioned
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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D.C. 20535 December 12, 1968

## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

On December 12, 1968, Benjamin J. Guthrie, Director of Legislative Processes, House of Representatives, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on December 11, 1968, Franklin L. Orth registered the National Rifle Association as a lobbying group.

In the absence of any specific request from the Department of Justice, no further investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FEL It is the property of the FEL and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

119-64-9

1

December 13, 1968

119-64-10

Illinois

Dear

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 10, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 20 DEC 13 1968 COMM-FBI

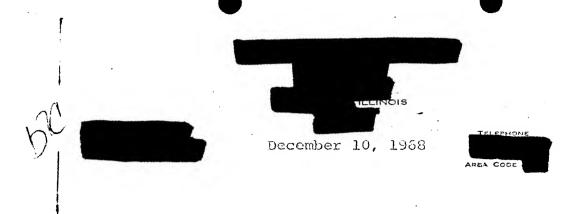
J. Edgar Hoover John Edgar Hoover Director

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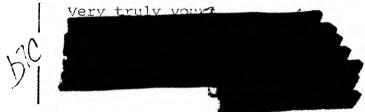
This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent.



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Pederal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am a member of the National Rifle Association and have been concerned about the F.B.I. investigation of this organization. I would like to know what you are investigating about the National Rifle Association and at whose request this investigation is being made.



DrR:pb

CC: Senator Everett Dirksen Senator Charles Percy Congressman Thomas Railsback

NEC 13 119-64-10

To To The state of the state of

CORRECT ON THE PROPERTY OF THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO

Mr. DeLdach

DATE: December 10, 1968

FROM

A. Rosen/

l - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - Mr. Bishop

DI

Division, telephonically advised this date that according to National Rifle Association (NRA) this Association will register today with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist. In view of this, requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued and he is forwarding a memorandum confirming this request.

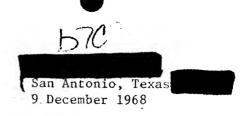
In this case the Criminal Division of the Department by letter dated 10/14/68 requested investigation to determine whether the NRA should be registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with activities concerning gun registration legislation. We previously interviewed three officials of NRA and interviews with other officials were held in abeyance on request of the Department.

ACTION: The above is submitted for information and you will be advised of further pertinent developments.

CTG: bap (7)

BEG 25 / 119-64-11

Min



Mr J. Edgar Hoover Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation Justice Department Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Sir:

The San Antonio, Texas, Express Newspaper carried the attached article on 7 December 1968.

I would like to volunteer my services for whatever they may be worth to your organization. I do this only with a view in mind of assisting in an unbiased manner and to help in any way I can.

I am a Life Member of the National Rifle Association

DC

been involved one way or another with small arms training and competitions since 1925, and in doing so, have of necessity, been involved with the National Rifle Association.

Recently, as you know, the integrity and intent of the NRA has become suspect in the eyes of the public. If the allegations are true, so be it. I am just as anxious as anyone to see the allegations brought out in the open, and if the NRA is working at cross purposes to the welfare of our country, then let the chips fall where they may. I have no so-called axe to grind, and, as stated above, I am unbiased. Anything I do, I hope will eventually help the soldier, sailor, Marine or Airman who has to carry a rifle in the interest of our country.

Sincerely yours,

119-64-12

BOXING CONTRACTOR

# FBI Probing Rifle Scoup

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI confirmed Friday it is investigating the National Rifle Association, an influential group that never has registered with Congress as a lebby.

The NRA, which has fought fiercely against gun-control legislation, contends it is an educational organization and does not engage in lobbying.

December 16, 1968

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- Dil

Honorable Thomas F. Railsback House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your communication of December 12.

1968. enclosing a copy of a letter from , dated December 10, 1968, has been received.

I received letter previously and have replied thereto. There is enclosed for your information a copy of my letter to dated December 13, 1968.

In accordance with your request, I am returning the copy of letter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edger Ecore

Enclosures (2)

CTG: bap (4)

119-64

5.21

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO....

Honorable Thomas F. Railsback

### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a Tobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 adviæd that the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with Congressman Railsback is on the Special Correspondent's List.

b7C

# SPECIAL

### Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Mashington, B.C.

December 12, 1968

Director of Congressional Relations FBI
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

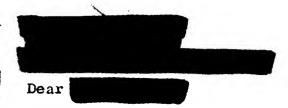
TOM RATIGRACK M. C.

TR:ss

RE1 1/9-64-13

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6-14)



This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 9, 1968, with an attached news article, and to thank you for your offer of assistance.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

REC: TLA

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

(119-64)

CTG: bap (3)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

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December 17, 1968

REC 1 119-64-14

1 - 670

Honorable Allen J. Ellender United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Senator:

Your communication of December 12, 1968, enclosing a copy of a telegram from Louisiana,

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

119-64

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See Note Page Two

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Honorable Allen J. Ellender United States Senate Washington, D. C.

NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information have had previous limited cordial correspondence with

## United States Senate

December 12, 1968

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

National Ryle Associate &

The attached communication is referred to you for such consideration as is warranted and for a report on it.

I will appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly.

Mes X

ALLEN J. EKLENDER

UNITED STATES SENATOR\_

REC-10

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COMPANDA

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Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Roser
Mr. Sullival
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room

Miss Holmes... Miss Gandy\_\_

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L VIGOROUSLY PROTEST THE FLAGRANT GESTAPO ATROPTTY OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE NRA STOP HAS THIS COUNTRY REACHED THE POINT WHERE ANY GROUP OF CITIZENS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STAND WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THIS FEDERAL AKVD, AS MY REPRESENTATIVE I DEMAND YOU ACT NOW TO STOP THIS

ATTORNEY

LA.

57C

December 17, 1968

1-157C

New Jersey
Dear

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 14, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI, together with enclosures.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

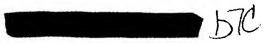
J. Idgar mover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

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REC-19<sup>(3)</sup>
119-64 — /5

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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### NOTE:

(This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued.) Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent.



December 14, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you because I read in the New York Times that the FBI was conducting an investigation of the National Rifle Association to determine whether or not it was a lobbying group. I also understand from radio commentators! remarks that the question of whether or not the NRA is an educational group is pertinent.

I am not connected with the NRA in any way, but I am disconcerted by many things that are happening in our country, among which are recurring attepts to discredit persons (as you surely must know) and organizations which contribute to the well-being and security of this country.

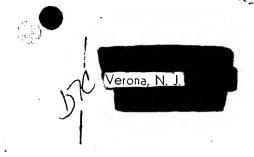
If there is any question as to whether or not the NRA is an educational organization, the attached Xerocopies of clippings from our local newspaper should be enlightehing. They concern the death of Ed Fichter, who was a certified instructor of the National Rifle Association. . The Verona Rifle Club, under his leadership and under the auspices of the NRA, has been one of the finest influences for the boys of Verona for twenty years.

was careful to select boys for his club who were emotionally stable, but aside from that, any boy who would earry his load was welcome. have never heard of a boy who learned the use of firearms at the Verona Rifle Club who got into serious trouble or who misused the knowledge that he gained. Many have served and are now serving in the armed forces and have been outstanding marksmen.

I presume that the investigation of the NRA results from its opposition to gun control legislation. In my opinion, it is fortunate that one group spoke up in opposition to prevent emotionalism from

SEC-19 119-64

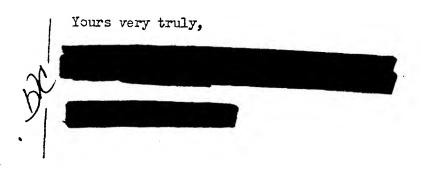
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holding sway over intelligence in this legislation. I do not believe that legislation or registration of guns could have prevented the events which led to the cry for gun control legislation, nor do I believe that it will prevent criminal and lawless elements from obtaining guns. It may, however, if the NRA is destroyed or discredited, mean that fewer decent, patriotic, law-abiding young men will know how to handle a gun.

I understand that the NRA has recently filed as a lobbying organization, apparently as a result of the proposed FBI investigation and as a protection against prosecution. I question why the NRA was selected at this particular time for investigation from among the 500,000 organizations which enjoy tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service regulations, and I question how many of these organizations could stand investigation as being non-profit and non-lobbying. In my opinion, the NRA is as much, and possibly more, concerned with education and the welfare of the country than many other so-called educational groups. In all fairness, it would be equitable to investigate all organizations enjoying tax-exempt status and to determine how many have refrained from attempting to influence legislation.

If you will accept the premise that education concerns more than facts from a book, I believe that you will conclude after reading the enclosed clippings that the NRA, through Ed Fichter and the Verona Rifle Club, was truly involved in education.



Copy to: National Rifle Association

## Edwin Fichter, Rifle Instructor

Services for Edwin L. Fichter of 48 Elmwood Rd., Verona, will be held this evening at 7:30 at the Arthur K. Brown, Inc., (Home for Services), 620 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, with the Rev. Walter M. Moore, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Verona, officiating. Interment will be in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Mr. Fichter died Sunday at Mountainside Hospital. He was 65.

Though he was born in Caldwell, Mr. Fichter had lived in Verona 64 years. He was employed as a brushmaker with Keifer Brushes, Verona.

A certified instructor of the National Rifle Association, Mr. Fichter organized the Verona Junior Rifle Club 20 years ago. He was a Boy Scout Leader for the Troop at the Verona Presbyteriaa Church for the same number of years.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. John Reeves of Cedar Grove.

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DERONA, N.J.

# High on a Hillop

Verona lost a "friend" last week. More specifically, Verona boys lost one of their best friends. Ed Fichter whose entire life was devoted to Scouting and in more recent years to the Verona Junior Rifle Club has passed from the scene. He was a quiet man and until the last retained that clusive quality which stamps the eternal young. His countenance bore a quizzical look always. At a moment his face could light up into a boyish grin. There was something implish about him. At times he resembled a fleeting leprechaun, ready to reveal hidden treasures to anyone who could keep in step with him.

He knew of many treasures that exist in the woods, on mountains, in the trees and in the sky. He had a cabin on a mountain, a tumble-down shack in a way, but a magical place where he would take his boys on weekends. By the light of an old stove, oil lamps, occasionally candles he would weave ghost stories to the delight of his followers as the moon cast eerie shadows outside the clearing and the wind ' whistled through the broken rafters. There were times when he arranged more sophisticated outings to the Maine woodlands. Once we asked him how many boys he could remember having been under his tutelage. He reflected a few seconds, "Hundreds,' he guessed, He was something like the fabled "Mr. Chips." He had many boys whose names he could recount one by one, placing them in certain categories, years and eras.

Among his prized possessions were letters from some of his "boys "who fought in World War II, in the Korean War, in the War in Vietnam. They wrote as friends, which they were, and mostly they attested to the training he had given them while in the rifle erganization. I don't think I'd be around without having been privileged to learn everything you taught me," one wrote whose mastery of guns had saved him in a Vietnam ambush. He never thought of boys as being different in any age. "Outward appearances don't mean a thing," he said once in discussing to-day's prevailing dress and mannerisms. "Inside a boy is always a boy."

Youngsters who met him for the first time couldn't always figure him out But they learned quickly that was because they regarded him as one of the "grown-ups" and when they realized that he was one of "them," a bond of affection soon developed. He made them understand first of all that membership in the rifle club was contingent upon discipline and respect. He stressed care in the handling of all firearms and he took pride in the club's record of safety. He had hoped someday to have a clubhouse in the community and an indoor rifle range but his efforts towards this end were not achieved. Some day, perhaps, they will be. In recent years, he was successful in having others help him in his endeavors and the club which he headed for twenty years underwent more intensive organization. Those who worked with him are not apt to abandon his dream. His "boys" are not likely to forget. He was a patient man and he probably is still willing to wait, "When you aim for something like this," he said a couple of years ago in speaking of the possibility of a club headquarters,

Explosion have to be certain of your sights and then not fitted. It seems certain that those who were most contain that the contain the contain the contain that the contain that the contain the c

### SPEARS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Editor, The Times:

On Sunday, Nov. 24, Ed Fichter, rifle instructor of the Verona Junior Rifle Club died. Ed was like a second grandfather to me. I had many wonderful times' with him.

I was fortunate to know him for three years. In these years I learned many things from him. He helped me at the gun club, teaching methe proper use of guns, but more important he taught me how to be a better per-

I spent three vacations with Ed and some of the other boys in the club during the Summer at Stokes Forest, It was Ed's two weeks vacation and he enjoyed spending them with us. On weekends during the year we would go to the cabin in West Milford, New Years Eve, Ed would ask some of us to the house to

celebrate the arrival of the new year.

I know I speak for all the boys in the club, and for anyone who knew Ed that our lives were made richer through our association with

I can remember when I first joined the club. I didn't do too well with my targets. Ed had patience and encouraged me when I would get discouraged. When at the end of the year some of us "poor" beginners would be awarded a trophy for doing well. I think Ed got just as much a thrill as we did.

The gun club will not be the same without him, and I'll miss him very much, I hope however, that somehow the club will continue as Ed would have wanted it to:

I hope that by reading this letter, people will come know and appreciate what this man stood for and what he tried so hard to

teach us by his exemplary life.

RICHARD FERGUSON Verona, N.J., Dec. 2, 1963

> him was a unique experience.

> Ed dedicated his life to youth. For twenty years he was Boy Scout Leader at the Presbyterian Church and later organized the Verona Junior Rifle Club for the same amount of years. For most men, once a week instructing the boys in the handling of guns would be enough, but for Ed seven days a week wouldn't be too much.

> Many nights boys would stop in at his house just to talk and hear about trips he had taken and experiences he had in previous years. Considering Ed was 65 years old, you can see that the difference in age meant nothing to the boys. It was just being there with him that counted. He gained the respect of these boys, something many parents today wished they had.

How inexpensive time is if you are willing to give of yourself. Truthfully how many of us give time to anything unless we can see something in it for ourselves. Ed had time, it was free, and he didn't waste it. I know he always tried to help others. He never complained. This was the way this man lived. He spoke only good of people. We know things weren't always easy for him, but somehow he'd never let you know it.

Meet of us measure ourselves by the material possendone we have in life, Ed

was rich in the satisfaction of dedication and always lived life as best he could in the short time he had.

He was especially proud of the many letters he received from former club members now serving in Vietnam. There was no "generation gap" between Ed and these boys. He had gained their respect and they never forgot him.

It pleased us to ree so many pay their last respects to such a fine man. There were the young members in the club, previous members, and parents of boys showing their gratitude for 'all he had done for their sons.

Even the day he died he was with the boys, trying in some small way to help at their annual fund raiser.

For those that didn't get to know him, I'm sorry, tor there are not many Ed Fichters around. Our only regret is that after Ed gave so much to the youth of Verona, he never was able to obtain his wish for his own range in Verona.

MR. & MRS. J. FERGUSON Verona, N.J., Dec. 2, 1968

FRIENDS PAY TRIBUTE

Editor, The Times:

It has been a week since we heard that Ed Fichter had died and still we can't believe that he is gone. We are not writing just because Ed was our friend, but to try in some way explain what this man meant to our three boys and to so many people.

There are words that could simply describe him-kind, putient, dedicated, humble, appreciative-but they only tell a small fraction of the life he led, dust to know

GAVE LIFE TO YOUTH Editor, The Times: At Thanksgiving this year

we were most grateful for our family and friends. We especially thanked God for having given us an Ed Fichter Whom He chose to call back to Him this week.

This humble man gave of himself, unselfishly, for over forty years to the service of youth during a most impresgive and formative time of their fives. We were most fortunate to have had our son under Ed's guidance for the past five years. Please God, the high character of this man shall live on in the many boys and girls who were so fortunate as to have had Ed Fichter as their friend and guide.

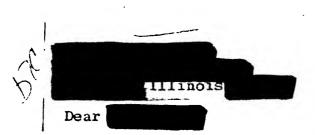
JOAN and JIM CARROLL Verona, N.J., Dec. 2, 1968

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DEC 5, 1969

VERONA - CEDAR GROVE TIMES

DEROYA, N. J



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This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 14, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

(119-64)

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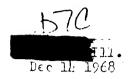
#### NOTE:

correspondent.

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent. The November, 1968, telephone directory for Illinois reflects a listing for

... Illinois, and no first name is listed for the

P10



J Edgar Hoover F E I Washington, D C

Dear Sir:

I note you have been ordered to investigate the National Rifleman's Association or that is what our paper states.

The following are some of the observations I have made over the years and now it seems they are coming to a head. At the time Spain was taken over by the communists, Spain for some time had had a gin regristration law. I once saw a movie depicting the actual riots and take over of that country by the commiss. It showed private citizens being forced to give up their hand gins, rifles etc. It stated that there were lists of these gins so that it was made easy for the commiss to know where the gins were. What a deadly parallel to our country at present.

It might seem that we had three instances happened here which brought up the ideas that a µn law would be the thing in the US A. At first after these affairs it seemed public sentiment all was for this regristration and licensing. Later when the public had time to think the letters run against it. The Maticael Aifleman's Association carried on a bitter fight.

I also heard a speech about the year ago given by a small manufacturer. He had carried on a one man fight against some of the things which were being done in the manufacture of ammunitions and gins for our government for the war in Vietnam. It seems faulty workman ship was being ordered by someone higher up to do this. He was told to lay off or he would lose his orders from the government. He was patrictic and did not 19-61-16 ar off. He was harrassed, disgraced and finally ruined for his efforts.

There might be some connection of this investigation against the N R A because of their determined stance against the fin registration law. It would not surprise me. There have been other things come up lately where some one or some company has been brought up before the I E S for some farcied reasons when that individual or company had min against things were not right but were being done because someone higher up favored doing them.

I doubt if you are at liberty to disclose who gave the order to investigate the N F A. But if you are I would like to know who gave the order. Just like the order given the Puebelo officers not to resist the hipacking of that boat. And also who gave the orders for the other U S boats close by not to interfore. It seems such orders were given.

Thanks for having patience to read this, if you were given the letter to read. After Jan. 1969 there might be some change, let us hope so.

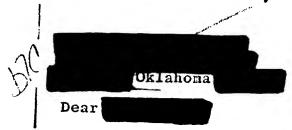


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119-64-17

December 16, 1968

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This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter on December 13, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edger Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

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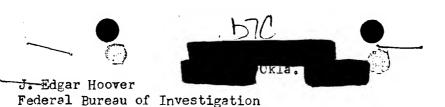
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request is listed in the title o		
Documents originated with a for review and direct respons  Pages contain information to the releasability of this i  Page(s) withheld inasmuch disposition at a later date.	nother Government agency(ies). These of to you.  furnished by another Government agency information following our consultation with as a final release determination has not be for release as they are duplicative of	documents were referred to that agency (ies). You will be advised by the FBI at the other agency (ies).

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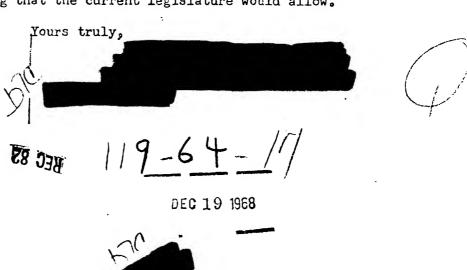


Dear Mr Hoover:

I believe I heard on radio that your office had been asked by a legislator to investigate the grounds on which the National Rifle Association claims tax exemption.

If you have not already done so, I suggest that you begin with Senator Tydings. That senator declared on national television--presumably a non-privileged utterance-- that this organization is supported by the Arms manufactubers and he at least hinted that it had no right to claim tax exemption.

I know members of this association who unhesitatingly describe it as a "lobby." A local man guessed that Senator Monroney perhaps lost 100,000 votes in Oklahoma merely for his sponsoring to some extent the "fly-speck" Act which is the only thing that the current legislature would allow.





## 119-64-

December 17, 1968





Thank you for your letter of December 7th, with enclosure. It was kind of you to give me the benefit of your observations.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and you may wish to contact that office. I can assure you that the FBI will continue to discharge its responsibilities with the same high degree of impartiality, thoroughness, and dispatch which have characterized our investigations in the past.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Ecores



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NOTE: Bufiles show one prior outgoing to correspondent in 1954 regarding a firearms identification matter. He is otherwise not identifiable in Bufiles. During our investigation of this matter, we

Callahan

NOTE continued Page Two.

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NOTE continued: interviewed three officials of National Rifle Association (NRA) and furnished the Department with an investigative report. On December 10th, the Department advised that an official of NRA registered on that date with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist, and the Department requested that any further investigation by the Bureau be discontinued.

December 7, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This morning, I picked up my copy of the Rochester DAMOCRAT Miss Gandy CHRONICLE and glanced at the front page. As it is the "Day of Infamy", it was fully expected to find bold type pertaining to Pearl Harbor.

However, what I saw on the front page reaffirmed what the day is, and doubled it in spades...FBI Investigates NRA.

This letter is not being written as a slam against your organization, mas I have a terrific amount of respect for the FBI, and from time to time,

It is realized that you are in the middle on this action involving NRA. It is obvious that there are people in high position that wish to see NRA die a quick death, in order to have little opposition to both restrictive firearm laws and total confiscation of all weapons. It is further obvious that some of these same people would back illegal overthrow of our government.

As a member of NRA, I resent this action involved, but realize that it has to be, to eliminate slams and innuendos against MRA. From articles and statements made by you, in the past, I believe that you realize fully what NRA is and what they do and what they have done.

The "nickel and dime" tax angle, from being labelled a possible lobby, is their, the "anti gun" people's, possible weapon against MRA. As a grass roots member of MRA, and thoroughly reading all of the items that they release to the public, it is strictly education of facts and legislative happenings. In New York State, a IRA Hunter Safety Course is the way to a hunting license. This is definitely an education to preserve freedom of our great country in all, respects.

What galls me probably the most is this. Some of the loudest people wanting NRA's hide are members of the largest "lobby" going, although not labelled. They and their organizations have meddled in politics for years. Much of their doings are directly responsible for crime in the streets, riots and murders. They hold billions in TAX FREE properties, and are corporations unto themselves. Some involved would take over government by any means, including screaming at NRA and sneak in where they can to grab what they can, while protective organizations are busy "ghost hunting". You know who I mean. THE CHURCHES! I wonder how many, tomorrow, will mention Pearl Harbor and then Monday, back to work!

The newspapers working over MRA whenever possible are the mouthpieces. Today, in my mail, another little gem came to light. Many papers
carried articles blaming the MYS Motor Vehicle Bureau for selling their
registration lists and are responsible for junk mail. An explanatory
letter, in answer to a letter I wrote, spelled out their involvement.
It directly charged the papers as twisting the facts. I have other letters
stating the same thing...twisting of facts by newspapers to suit their

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whims. Another, very portant one, involved a st ement that the Boy Scouts of America was considering dropping the marksmanshin merit badge in their program. This was simply not true!

Written to the Boy Scouts, protesting this action

Another twisted bit. As days pass, the number of misinformation increases. I can see editorials blasting organizations and individuals, but to make NEWS ARTICLES editorials, this is not right, in any sense.

We wonder who is responsible for all this mayhem in the United States. Sir, it is obvious who plays what roles, despite the noisy ghost hunters, shifting blame wherever possible, other than at their doorstep. True, the involvement is numerous, so ALL chips should fall to the respective doorsteps.

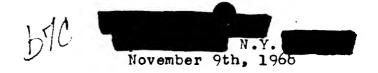
Mr. Hoover, I write this letter as a simple request. In the name of humanity and freedom, please be fair to whatever organization comes under attack or investigation. As in the past, continue to insure that you whole organization is fair and factual, despite political pressures and whims of individuals and money.

If MRA is a lobby, it can be only a lobby insuring freedom and return to sanity and common sense. MRA was the respect of many...the FBI has the respect of many. Are not both of the organizations working for the same roal, although from different positions? Has the FBI ever been called a lobby?

Please continue to just be fair.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours.



#### Fellow Sportsman:

We are in the midst of the hunting seasons and therefore our guns are foremost in our activities...AT THE MOMENT:

In three weeks, the deer sesson will be about done. Our guns will be oiled and returned to storage for next year. Our thoughts will turn to the hustle and bustle of Christmas, snowblowers, overtime at work and just about everything other than the shooting sports.

There are some people who do not forget about our sport! Each and every day it is in their minds. Many of these are the really dedicated of the hobby. Indoor target work, rabbits and fox pursuit in snowy fields, planning of next year's trip, looking to taking their sons on their first hunting are the thoughts.

However, another small, but dedicated group is about! These are the people with thoughts contrary to free use AND ownership of ALL guns. Like the one rotten apple in the barrel, it will spoil the whole barrel. It has to be removed before all is lost.

With apples, it can be spotted easily and quickly removed. However, with people, it takes longer to find and remove the spoilage. There are those of us who have worked long and hard to find these people, provide the factual education to alleviate the myths in their minds. Working for the best of legislation for all, we've managed to work in.

We are a very tired bunch! At times, we wonder whether we are really doing much to help our sport. We feel that we have done our part. We look for people to take over the load and fight! Very few come forward, so renewed dedication is our only answer!

YOU, the nimrod and experienced, can REALLY DO YOUR PART...NOW! You have all heard of the National Rifle Association. Many of you have thought of joining, from time to time, but have not. Some of you may only know of NRA through the daily press AND perhaps in a bad light.

MRA has been behind every gun owner and free citizen for NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS. They have trained shooters in accuracy and in the best of shooting safety. They have provided the best in open competition on ranges. Many of our nation's heroes in fighting for freedom and keeping it have been NRA trained. They have fought for decent legislation at all levels, favorable to ALL citizens. In essence, NRA is a MAJOR part of our great heritage. I think that it is safe to say, and history prove, that this one organization has been foremost in keeping America free.

Five past presidents of our great country have been NRA members. Now, a sixth is about to take office. Richard Nixon is a LIFE MEMBER of NRA. Another great hero can be spawned...with YOUR help.

119-64-18

How can you help? The best of legislation can be REALITY for YOU! The atrongest organization of responsible gun owners, ever, is here, ready to serve you. Your voice will join the loudest chorus ever conceived, for freedom for ALL.

NRA has ONE MILLION MEMBERS, from all walks of life, BUT WE NEED YOU! Your membership insures ONE MORE VOTE for decency and return to sanity in this country. Your thoughts and ideas to this end will join others to insure this reality.

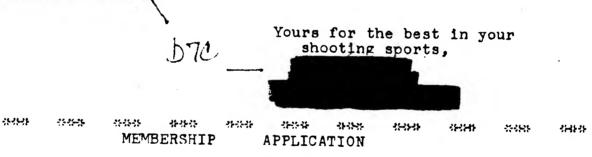
The yearly dues are YOUR insurance policy for that gun of YOURS to stay in YOUR home. Your monthly magazine, "THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN", is terrific and worth the cost of membership alone. How much is YOUR membership? Just \$6 regularly. However, I'm sending in a group of your fellow shooters...st ONLY \$5 per membership.

Drop s hint for Christmas, there is an idea! Or drop s line to NRA, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Or, drop s line or call me and I'll do the paperwork. Any NRA member will also help you.

1969 is the year of decision for us and whether we will be ALLOWED to OWN our guns. Join with Richard Nixon as your hunting partner and EACH AND EVERY responsible gun owner as YOUR friend.

Call me NOW: or drop a line. Sign up NOW and I'll hit you for the \$5 after January 1st should you wish...or any time inbetween.

353535



I hereby sooly for membership in the National Rifle Association, including a subscription to "THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN". I certify that I am a citizen of good repute of the United States of America; that I am not a member of any organization or group having as its purpose or one of its purposes the overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the United States or any of the political subdivisions; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence; and that, if admitted to membership, I will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and good citizenship.

	_	(Signstu	re)
Name	A	ddress	
City	State	Zip	Age

. Make checks payable to NRA.

December 19, 1963

Honorable Earle Cabell House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

1968, enclosing a Dallas, Texas, concerning our investigation of the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

You may also wish to advise your constituents that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not determine whether prosecutive action will be undertaken in any situation. Such decisions concerning violations of Federal law are within the province of the Attorney General. Voluminous data regarding riots and rioters have been furnished to the Attorney General.

I am enclosing some material which you may wish to send to your constituents and I am returning the constituents' letter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)

\SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Honorable Earle Cabell

#### Description of enclosures:

- (1) Statement of Director before the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 9/18/68.
- (2) Message from Director entitled "An Analysis of the New Left: A Gospel of Nihilism."
- (3) Message from Director to all Law Enforcement Officials, May, 1968.

#### NOTE

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituents. We have had cordial relations with Congressman Cabell in the past.

EARLE CABELL

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1121 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: 225-2231

DALLAS OFFICE: ROOM 716 - 1114 COMMERCE PHONE: RI 9-3571

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 13, 1968

COMMITTEE:
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

SUBCOMMITTEE:
MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

HUGH G. HART, JR.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MRS. JENNIE GRINDBERG EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Veloach
Mr. Veloach
Mr. Veloach
Mr. Caper
Mr. Callaban
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Feb. 1
Mr. Consad
Mr. Heese
Mr. Heese
Mr. Tolso
Tele, Fon
Miss Hilmes
Miss Gandy

Director
Office of Congressional Liaison
Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a letter received in my office from in which they are protesting the FBI's investigation of the National Rifle Association.

I would greatly appreciate your comments on this matter so that I might know how to respond to their communication.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I am

Sincerely,

Cold Collins

EARLE CABELL, M. C.

EC:jb Enclosure

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Dallas, Texas
December 6, 1968

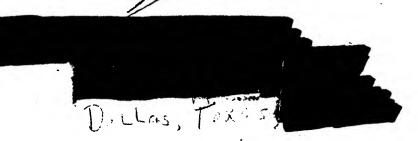
Hon. Earle Cabell United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Note Rife ansa

I must strongly protest the FBI investigation of the NRA. It is an insult to the organization and to the 1,063,355 members. When you investigate the NRA, you investigate me.

Let's be constructive. Let's get some effective legislation through. Let's investigate, and not whitewash the riots, rioters and especially the instigators of the riots. Let the law abiding citizens live in peace.



119-64-19

ENCLOSURE

December 20, 1963

Honorable Charles H. Percy United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Senator:

Your communication of December 15, 1968 enclosing a copy of a letter from , dated December 10, 1968, has been received.

I received letter previously and have replied thereto. There is enclosed for your information a copy of my letter to dated December 13, 1968.

In accordance with your request, I am returning the copy of letter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)

EX-303 CTG:DC (4)
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See note page 2

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Honorable Charles H. Percy

#### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with Previous correspondence with Senator Percy has been cordial.

### Mnited States Senate

December 15, 1968

Federal Bureau of Investigation

for such consideration as the communication herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report . thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of inclosure.

By direction of

Charles H. Percy/bb

MU1-12

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated explain this deletion. Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you. Section 552 Section 552a □ (b)(1)  $\Box$  (b)(7)(A)  $\Box$  (d)(5) □ (b)(2)  $\Box$  (b)(7)(B)  $\square$  (j)(2)  $\Box$  (b)(3)  $\Box$  (b)(7)(C)  $\square$  (k)(1)  $\Box$  (b)(7)(D)  $\square$  (k)(2)  $\Box$  (b)(7)(E)  $\square$  (k)(3)  $\Box$  (b)(7)(F)  $\Box$  (k)(4)  $\Box$  (b)(4)  $\Box$  (b)(8)  $\square$  (k)(5)  $\Box$  (b)(5)  $\Box$  (b)(9)  $\square$  (k)(6)  $\Box$  (b)(6)  $\square$  (k)(7) ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only. Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you. Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies). Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date. Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 119-HO-104-10

1etter dated 12-13-68 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXX 119-64-21

Honorable William L. Scott House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

Your communication of December 13, 1968, enclosing a letter from concerning our investigation of the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

With respect to the other inquiries, I can tell you the FBI has conducted a considerable amount of investigation regarding the subversive movement which threatens our country today. Being strictly an investigative agency of the Department of Justice, we have furnished the results of our inquiries to the Attorney General for his opinion with respect to prosecution in these matters.

I am enclosing some material which you may wish to send to your constituent and, in addition, I am returning the constituent's letter pursuant to your request....

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO....

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Enclosures (4) CTG: ban (4) MAIL ROOM

Honorable William L. Scott Description of Enclosures: Statement of Director before the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 9/18/68. Message from Director entitled "An Analysis of the New Left: A Gospel of Nihilism." (3) Turbulence on the Campus. NOTE: This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituent. We have had cordial relations with Congressman Scott in the past.

### Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Mashington, P.C.

<u>December 13</u> 196 8

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover Director, FBI Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly.

William K. Part

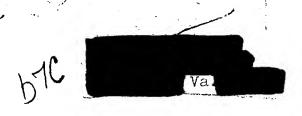
William L. Scott, M. C. 8th district, Virginia

What was the ENCLOSURE

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Dear Mr. Scott,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re election to Congress from this district.

I read in the news today that the FBI is investigating the National Rifle Association at the request of our so called Justice Dept. at the taxpayers expense, of course. I wonder if you have any information concerning the basis for this investigation?

In my opinion there are hundreds of subversive organizations in this country that seriously warrant a through investigation other than the N.R.A.

Has the Justice Dept. instigated any investigations of the Black Panthers, Blackstone Rangers, Black United front, American Civil Libertys Union or any of the organizations disrupting our colleges today? If not, can Congress direct the FBI to do this?

I haven't heard of any NRA members murdering policemen or staging battlefield type street demonstrations.

I only hope and pray that the Mixon administration, with the help of good Congressmen like yourself, can restore Americanism to this country.

119-64 21.

Yours truly,

reproduct to how here.



December 23, 1968

119-64-22

Honorable Joel T. Broyhill House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

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Your letter of December 19, 1968, enclosing a letter from concerning our investigation of the National Rille Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

In accordance with your request, I am returning Mr. Barthelow's letter.

Enclosure

CTG:DC

(4)

AARES: 01

CONTEST

See note page 2

Honorable Joel T. Broyhill

#### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituent. Our relations with Congressman Broyhill have been generally satisfactory.

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA, ARLINGTON, FALLS CHURCH, FAIRFAX CITY AND PART OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Congress of the United States

COMMITTEES: WAYS AND MEANS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HOMER LEE KROUT **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** 

### House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

December 19, 1968

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The attached communication, or pertinent extracts thereof, is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Any assistance you can properly render toward accomplishing the objective stated in the enclosure will be appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Joel T. Broyhill, M. C.

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JTB/ck



Honorable Joel T. Broyhill U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

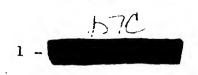
Sir

How is it that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency of the federal government, is allowed to harass the National Rifle Association with its intimidating investigations? The only "crime" which the NRA stands accused of is that it has the courage to defend the basic rights of Americans.

It appears highly contradictory to require a person to give up his time, fighting for rights in Southeast Asia, when these same rights are becoming non-existent in our own country.

Sincerely





December 24, 1968

Mars 119-64 23

Honorable James C. Cleveland House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of December 20, 1968 enclosing a copy of a letter from the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Poper Houver

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See note page 2

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Honorable James C. Cleveland

#### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituent. Our relations with Congressman Cleveland are limited but have been generally satisfactory.

JAMES C. CLEVELAND 20 DIST., NEW HAMPSHIRE

> COMMITTEES: PUBLIC WORKS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONGRESS

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Washington Office: 1112 Longworth House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 Tel.: 225-5206

DISTRICT OFFICES:
316 FEDERAL BUILDING
55 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301
TEL.: 224-4187

15½ MAIN STREET
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03060
TEL.: 883-4525

December 20, 1968

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Dureau of Investigation Department of Justice Washington, D.C.

Dear Hr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from a constituent who is concerned about the F.3.I.'s investigation of the National Rifle Association.

Any assistance you could give me in answering my constituent's inquiry would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

James C. Cleveland, M.C.

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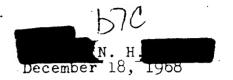
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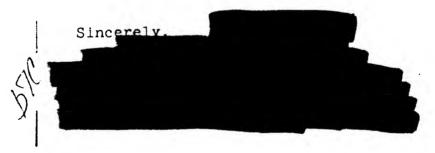


The Honorable James Cleveland 1112 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleveland:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched an investigation of the National Rifle Association. This inquiry reportedly is being made at the request of an unidentified member of Congress. As I have been a member of the National Rifle Association for the past twenty years, I would appreciate learning why such an inquiry.

The National Rifle Association has, in the past, opposed unwarranted and unreasonable laws pertaining to firearms; however, no subversive activity has ever come to my attention. Unfortunately, many people feel that investigation by a police authority, particularly the F.B.I., is indicative of wrong-doing; therefore, as both a member of the N.R.A. and citizen of the United States, I question the legitimacy of this inquiry.



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December 13, 1968

119-64-24

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Honorable James Harvey House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of December 9, 1968, enclosing a copy of excerpts from a constituent's letter concerning our investigation of the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

With respect to the other inquiries, I can tell you the FBI has conducted a considerable amount of investigation regarding the subversive movement which threatens our country today. Being strictly an investigative agency of the Department of Justice, we have furnished the results of our inquiries to the Attorney General for his opinion with respect to prosecution in these matters.

I am enclosing some material which you may wish to send to your constituent.

MAILED 20
DEC 1 3 1968
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours, J. Edgar Hoover

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Enclosures (4)

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Honorable James Harvey Description of Enclosures: Testimony of Director before House Subcommittee on Appropriations 2/3/68. Statement of Director before the National Commission on (2) the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 9/18/68. Message from Director entitled "An Analysis of the (3) New Left: A Gospel of Nihilism." (4) Turbulence on The Campus. NOTE: This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. The constituent is not identified in the Congressman's correspondence. Congressman Harvey is on the Special Correspondent's List.

Chin.

JAMES HARVEY

410 CANNON OFFICE BUILDING TELEPHONE: 225-2806

COMMITTEE: INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 9, 1968

DISTRICT OFFICES:

10-11 JEFFERSON-BAUM COURT > SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 755-6565

409 FORT PORT HURON, MICHIGAN 982-0591

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

National Riple Assessed y

Enclosed you will find a copy of excerpts from a recent letter from a constituent in which an inquiry is made relative to FBI investigations. I would appreciate any comments you care to make and any information you can provide.

 $$\operatorname{\textbf{Thank}}$$  you for your assistance and cooperation. With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

JAMES HARVEY, M. C.

JH/dl

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12 DEC 11 1968

CORRESPONDENCE

own (52-)

## Dec. 6, 1968

Dear Rep James Hawey,

I pest heard on the news, the F. B. I investigate the National Refle association. I am teying to serve my eaunty by dissociation that you please do something about gitting the I. B. I. to investigate the "Black Tanklees."

I. D. S. etc. etc. etc. Communish organizatione led by perfeccional leadure, leter get on the ball and passessome legislation that well make a few wrong though throng I also

ENTOT OSTIRE 119 - 64 24

#### TRUE COPY

Dec. 6, 1968

Dear Rep James Harvey,

I just heard on the news, the F. B. I. is requested by an unidentified congressman to investigate the National Rifle Association. I am trying to serve my country by demanding that you please do some thing about getting the F.B.I. to investigate the "Black Panthers" S.D.S. etc. etc. etc. Communist organizations led by proffesional leaders, lets get on the ball and pass some legislation that will make a few wrong things "Wrong" I also

TRUE COPY

N. J.

December 26, 1968

ZZ DEC 31 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D.C.

meH. 9-1

Dear Sir:

After receiving your reply to my letter of December 14, 1968, I concluded that it had been addressed to the wrong person and I have redirected my questions to Mr. Fred Vinson, Jr.

Thank you for your consideration in answering so promptly. I believe that if all our government agencies were run as ably as the Federal Bureau of Investigation we would have fewer problems and a more stable and respected government.

:5. Iam attaching a copy of the letter to The Venson. There is no intention to cause any eminerannes to you. no atractific. REC 9

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Tolson Casper Conrad Tavel\_ Trotter \_ Tele. Room -Holmes \_ Gandy

UPI-85

(GUNS) WASHINGTON -- THE FBI IS INVESTIGATING THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCAATION, ASSOCAATION, THE POWERFUL ANTIGUN CONTROL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS REGISTERED AS A DOMESTIC LOBBY BECAUSE IT CONTENDS IT IS NOT A CONTENDS IT IS NOT A LOBBYING BODY.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE FBI WAS ASKED TO INVESTIGATE NRA AT THE REQUEST OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD NO COMMENT, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THAT DOMESTIC LOBBYISTS TO REGISTER WITH THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR NRA SAID THE QUESTION OF REGISTRATION WOULD BE

REVIEWED SOON BY THE ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD.

A PUBLISHED REPORT TODAY SAID THE FBI INVESTIGATION WAS SPARKED BY

COMPLAINTS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

SEN. THOMAS D. DODD. D-CONN. LONG TIME PROPONENT OF STRONG GUI CONTROLS, FORMALLY REQUESTED A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION DURING SENATE DEBATE ON THE GUN CONTROL BILL LAST SEPT. 12. HE SAID THE NRA'S TAX EXEMPT STATUS SHOULD BE LISTED AND THE LONG TIME PROPONENT OF STRONG GUN

ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE FORCED TO REGISTER AS A LOBBY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SENATOR SAID TODAY, HOWEVER, HE HAD NEVER ANY REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OR ANY OF HAD NEVER MADE STL AGENTS.

12/6--EG237PES



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Tolson \_\_\_\_ DeLoach \_\_\_ Mohr \_\_\_\_

Mohr \_\_\_\_ Bishop \_\_\_ Casper \_

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The National Rife Assi

The National Rifle Association is under Justice Department investigation as a pussible violator of the Federal Regulation of Lobbyung Acc.

NRA officials insisting that the lobbying law didn't apply to its efforts a pinci genice trail legislation on Lagelf or appartment and from 6 oreas, confirmed yesterday that they were viriled a month ago by we FBI agents.

The agents, who conducted interviews at the NRA head-quarters at 1900 Rhode Island ave. nw., said they were there innder Justice Department orders as the result of a complaint by an unidentified member of Congress, officials said.

Charges that the NRA has engaged in uncegistered to bly-ing have been made throughout Congressional hearings on gun-control legislation.

Chief critics of the NRA have included Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). Aides to both Senators said they did not know the source of the specific complaint under investigation.

It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a year in prison and \$5000 fine, to engage "for pay" in influencing legislation without registering with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and filing regular reports.

The FBI would not say whether it had turned up any evidence of such activity.

NRA officials frequently testify at gun-control hearings but they contend that they do so only to "present the views of members." They also maintain the legal right to "inform" the membership of one million of the status of proposed laws affecting their in-

The Washington Post $H-6$
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Sun (Baltimore)
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Examiner (Washington)

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January 7, 1969

Honorable Sam Steiger House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

I have received your communication of January 3rd enclosing a copy of a letter from Phoenix. Arizona.

With respect to your constituent's comment, you may wish to advise him that the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and you may wish to contact that office.

You may also wish to inform that the FBI has conducted a considerable amount of investigation regarding the subversive movement which threatens our country today. Being a strictly investigative agency of the Department of Justice, we furnish the results of our inquiries to the Attorney General for his opinion with respect to prosecution in these matters.

Sincerely yours,

1 - Phoenix - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of Congressman Steiger (R-Arizona) was elected to Congress in November, 1966, and we have enjoyed very limited, but cordial relations with him. During our investigation of this matter, we interviewed three officials of National Rifle Association (NRA) and furnished the Department with an investigative report. On December 10th, the Department advised that an official of NRA registered on that date with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobby ist, and the Department requested that any further investigation by

the Bureau be discontinued.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S. WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Respectfully referred to

Congressional Liaison FBI Justice

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Very respectfully,

Sam Steiger, M. C. Arizona - 3 126 Cannon HOB

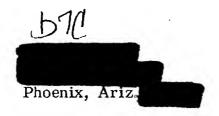
> M.C., District. 16-76359-1

17 JAH 5 1969

Mr. Tavel Mr. Trotter..... Tele. Room\_\_\_\_

Mira Heimea ...... Miss Gandy.....

(Dec 26 1968)



Dear Representative Steiger:

I will start this letter by saying that I am a law abiding American citizen, who is washed, has a haircut and works every day to feed and support my family.

I was shocked Sir, to read in Saturday's Ariz. Republic that the National Rifle Ass. is being investigated by the F. B. I. It is my opinion that when we bring patriotic, loyal American organizations such as this one under investigation, our country is in serious trouble.

It would make more sense to me to investigate such organizations as A. D. A., S. D. S., and some of the other militants who make no secret of their intentions to rearrange our country by violence.

I will conclude this letter by saying that I supported and voted for you during the election, and would sincerely appreciate any efforts on your behalf to bring this unreasonable investigation to a quick end.

Respectfully Yours

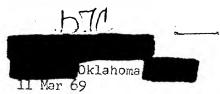
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Dear Représentation et leigen: I will start this letter by saying that I am a law whiling Univican citizen, who is washed, has a however and works werey day to ful and support my family.

I was should she, to read in Saturdays Aris. Republic that the Mational Right Coc. is being investigated by the F. B.I. It is my opinion that when we tring patriotic , doyal american organization such as this one under investigation, our country in in serious trouble. It would make more sense to me to innestige such organizations as A.DA., S.D.S., and some of the other militants who make me sucret of their intentions to recorange our country by moline. I will conclude this letter by raying that I supported and voted for your clearing the election, and would sincerely appreciate any efforts on your to a quick end. Respectfully Yours 21 199

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The Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, P.C.

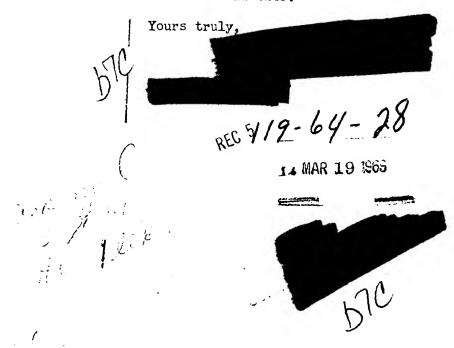
Dear Mr Hoover:

I was just looking at a clipping I took from a newspaper some time ago to the effect that the Quantico Marines complain that they are compelled to serve as markers at rifle ranges on their off-days whether they want to or not.

Is that a consequence of the National Rifle Association's lobbying activity?

I have not seen in The "ew York Times or other newspaper any report ,interim or otherwise, of your investigation into the question of whether the National Rifle Association is a lobby or notal If it is, it ought to be registered as such. Further it should lose its tax-exempt status.

There is to be a general overhaul of the tax-exempt status of Foundations and I hope the National Rifle Association will be included in this.



April 8, 1969

**REC-24** 119-64-29

Honorable Jacob K. Javits United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Internal Revenue Service by letter of April 2nd referred to us your communication enclosing a letter from and it was received on April 4th.

With respect to your constituent's inquiries, you may wish to advise her that the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., the then Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

I am returning the enclosure as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

NOTE: Bufiles disclose we have enjoyed cordial correspondence with Senator Javits but contain no information identifiable with

During our investigation of National Rifle Association (NRA) we interviewed three officials and furnished the Department with an investigative report. On December 10, 1968, the Department advised that an official of NRA registered on that date with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist, and the Department requested that any further investigation by the Bureau be discontinued. LMG:rk (4) /

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Cailahan Sullivan

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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			(b)(7)(F)	□ (k)(4)
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#### Mniled States Senate

#### Respectfully referred to

Congressional Liaison Internal Revenue Service

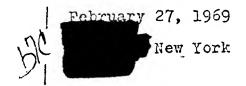
for such consideration as the communication herewith submitted may warrant, and <u>for a report</u> thereon, <u>in duplicate</u> to accompany <u>return of inclosure</u>.

By direction of

Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

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Jante-mak



Senator Jacob Javits Senate Office Building Washington, D.C.

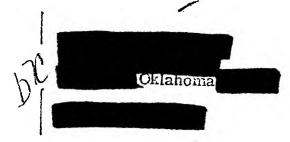
Sir:

I read, very happily, several weeks ago that the F.B.I. intended to investigate the lobbying activities of the National Rifle Association. Is the investigation continuing, or has someone managed to turn it off? Or, hopefully, has it finally been decided that the N.R.A. is now, and has been for more than thirty years, a lobby?

I, as a Republican, am pleased with your basic scepticism of the Nixon Administration. I think you reflect the thinking of many Republicans. I admire you for being willing to stand up and say what many seemed to be afraid to say.



119-64-29



In reply to your letter of March 11th, I cannot comment relative to the work of the Marines at Quantico, Virginia. I am, however, referring a copy of your letter to the Secretary, Department of Defense, Washington, D. C., for any assistance he may be able to afford you.

As I advised you on December 16, 1968, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., the then Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and you may wish to contact that office.

MAILED 22 MAR 181969 COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Bufiles disclose we wrote correspondent on 12/16/68 in response to his letter concerning the activities of the National Rifle Association, its tax exempt status and we advised him as above. During our investigation of the National Rifle Association (NRA) we interviewed three officials and furnished the Department our investigative report. On 12/10/68, the Department advised an official of NRA registered, on that date, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Department requested that any further investigation by the Bureau be discontinued. Copy of correspondent's letter furnished to the Secretary of Defense by form referral, same date.

ALA:llk (3) AR251969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

P. U. Box #1525 Pittsburgh, Pa.

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James 21, 1936

Special Agent in Charge

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Express that could be considered

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This was surfaced and sality 30.06 Springfield, motel of 1903.

The rest stated that he had lent the gas to a man to go over manage. Letter in salt the man had gone to California and they would have to wait satisfies to managed. Laber he stated his brother-in-law dated it and when the contented the brother-inlaw, when region he could not social. And its admitted having had the rifle but stated he lest it to manifer man who had died, and he die not know where the gam had gone.

reported the matter to this office on a possible that of schoolstonest of Government property. Se exhibited a letter from the filter fully indensity Company dated figurery 7, 1928, we have the filter may to up paid by January 20, 1938.

. KROORDED

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stated that the price of the rifls is approximately \$54.00, and that the rest of the \$120.38 is for other things that were missing on which there is no kick by the club.

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instituted to assertain the facts at the MHA at Pashington, S. C., after which the case would be promented to the United States Attorney for his opinion as to whether the taking of the gun by recommend to a theft of Government property, after which his nevice would be fellowed.

naice an appropriate chack at the RAL to except to the Circumstances of the leading of these game to the RAL to except to the Circumstances to accordate if the title to said game reclaimed in the name of the United States Government.

AREA ALMA ACRES.

R. J. UPTERIORA Special Agent in Charge

Rau: In 52collumn

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# BEST COPY AVAILABLE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Their of Springfield Rifle  THEFT OF LOVERBUST PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF PACTS.  Circlian  Markstratic, Eashington, D. C., states  instably rifle is property of U.S. Constructions  Best and was leased to Ps.  Elife Club. Er. C. E. Lister, Sacretary  National Rifle Association, Sibted  Rifle Club has R.R.A. affiliation.  RIFLE Club has R.R.A. affiliation.	WATCOM MADE AT	PITTSFURCH, PA.		FEE NO.	52-1294
There of Springfield Bifls  There of Paces  Instant rifle is property of U.S. Green- sect and was learned to Ps.  Pifls Club. Er. C. S. Lister, Secretary National Rifls Associating, States Rifls Club has R.A. Agrillation.  Rifls Club has R.A. Agrillation.  ABU  There is a second to the Pittsburgh Division to the Washington Field Division dated Jan. 21, 1935.  If MASKINGTON, D. C.  Mary Fuilding,  It the office of the Director of Civilian Larkementhip, was issued in 1931 with other squiment to the stant rifls were received at the Springfield rifle, 3C calibre, redel 196  stant rifls were received at the Springfield Armony, Springfield, Massachusetts, April 27, 1937. The instant rifle is carried on the recerts of the Director of Civilian Barkementhip as a piece of property to be surveyed as missing, for which the D. S. Covernment will be reintered by the Blenn Falls Indemnity Company on a bond.  The Director of Civilian Representations of the Director of Civilian Barkementhip as a piece of property to be surveyed as missing, for which the D. S. Covernment will be reintered by the Blenn Falls Indemnity Company on a bond.  FEE 4 1	WASHINGTON, D.		•	PRIPORY SCADE BY	केट्टन : 3
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MINIMUM.  Market and was leared to Pa.  Eiffle four. Fr. C. E. Lister, Secretary.  National Rifle Association, Sistem  Rifle Club has R.F.A. Affiliation.  REC.  Markington Field Division dated Jan. 21, 1936.  Markington Field Division of Civilian Larkementhip, U. S. Army, was interviewed, and stated that his received was that Springfield Fifle, 30 Calibre, sodel 100 was issued in 1931 with other equipment to the stant rifle were received at the Springfield Armory, Springfield, kassochusetts, April 27, 1937. The instant rifle is carried on the recents of the Director of Civilian Markementhip as a piece of property to be surveyed as micring, for which the U. S. Covernment will be reintered by the Elem Falls Indemnity Company on a bond.  Marketts and the surveyed as micring, for which the U. S. Covernment will be reintered by the Elem Falls Indemnity Company on a bond.  Marketts and was the surveyed as micring, for which the U. S. Covernment will be reintered by the Elem Falls Indemnity Company on a bond.	A.		1	<u> </u>	1 (AC X4)
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52-1201

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stated that all the property which is issued by his office, is received from the Ordnance Department, U.S. Army, and that it remains the property of the U. S. Toverment unless it is sold, and his records failed to show that instant riffe men sold or returned. His records further indicated that one of the Pennsylvania Riffe

At the office of the National Rifle Association. U STER, Secretary, was interviewed and stated that the Pennsylvania Rifle Club is an affiliated club of the Advional Rille Association, for which affiliation a \$10.00 & mual charter fee is paid. Er. Lister stated that clubs so affiliated with the N.R.A. are afforded the opposituality of drawing pertain Government property from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, but that this property does not in any way belong to the Rational Rifle Association, and insofar as he knows, remains Government property unless sold by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship.

# BEST COPY AVAILABLE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HIS CASE OFFICIAL TED AT	ittenurgi, penns		PILE NO.	52-33 <sub>6</sub>
PITTEBURGH PA.	DATE WHEN MACE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/30/38	REPORT MADE BY	
Their 5. 3	pringfield Rifie		THEFT OF 20TE	encer frupelet
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:	prosecution ev	en if facts all	Fittebares, Pa. leged be proven b to lose to Govern	, declines ecuase of
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ENTERENCE:	Report of Spec February 2, 19		Kenhingt	or, p. c.,
on January	mrib, in charge	31	21	Luc
Rifle .22 calibre the club by that the alu in Washingto safe keeping Indeznity Co	2th Club Much had and two 30.06 the Estional Bis on the Estional Bis of these rifles apany, Orant Bus abs United State	ated that in in its present in its present of the Springfield riffile Association much fee to the pat association indemns, a surety bon ilding, Pittsbuilding, Pittsbuilding, Popularity and by	and learning	m louned to tates foverment insociation ment for the liens Falls
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the min to a sen for the surpose of deer hunting, stated that a sen for the surpose of deer hunting, stated that a ser changed his story and stated there is brother-in-law contacted trother-in-law shore name he did not know, the crother-in-law amulted that he had the rifle, but that he had loaned it to another san who had since aled, and that did not know the present whereabouts of the gan.

It should be noted that this matter had not been called to the attention of suthorities for more than two years, and that it was not until the Glenn Falls Indemnity Company, who exparently paid the loss on this rifle to the United States Covernment, wrote to the Rifle Glub at for reimbursement that he submitted the facts of this case to this Areau on the possibility of a thaft or embessionent of Government property.

510

it the time this report was made to the Pittsburgh Office is letter was directed to the Vashington Field Division embodying the facts as set out above with request that the Machington Field Division make an appropriate check at the Mational Rifle Association to make the Citable Series of the lain of these guis to the Eifle Club, and to determine if title to the maid guest make in the name of the United States Government.

The Washington Field Division covered the lead suggested, by: the letter directed to it as is reflected in the report of reference.

In his Inspection Report dated March 7, 1938, Agent discussed the facts in this case with Assistant United States Attorney George Machank, who declined presecution for the reason that the facts did not indicate a criminal intent, inassich as there was no evidence of any theff; and in view of the fact that the United States Government was indemnified by the Glenn Falls Indemnity Company on a bond for that purpose there was no loss to the Government and accordingly, this case is being closed.

CLOSED

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believed it possible that some inquiry might be made at a later into concerning the drill.

AT PROVO. UDAE.

Deputy Exeriff Christenson was interviewed at the Cheriff's Office, Proto, Utah on January 24, 1938 and informed Agent that he, together with Deputy Exeriff welt Current, had conducted an exhaustive investigation portaining to the theft of the instant drill and had developed no suspects. On January 26 Deputy wheriff wait Durrent was interviewed at Proto, Utah and stated that in the apring they will again commutes an investigation pertaining to the theft of the instant drill as they believed at that time whoever had stolen it would use it for prospecting. Deputy Sheriff infrant promised Agent that in the spring he will again conduct an investigation and he stated that through his contacts he will know whether or not that drill was ever used for prospecting in that vicin-

It may be noted that letters have been addressed to all Police Departments and Chariffs' Offices in Utah where second-hand shops are located to notify their Paunshop Datails of the theft of the instant harmer drill. It is believed that in the event the Uninous Subjects attempt to pean or sell the instant drill, this information will be immediately furnished to the Salt Lake City Field Division.

In view of the fact that there are no leads enterending, this case is being closed subject to being reopened upon receipt of subsequent information which may lead to the identity and apprehension of the Unknown Subjects in the above-cattled case.

CLOSED

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52-234

1mapector

This investigation is deliagness in the Pittsburgh district. It is noted from a review of the initial reports that the end was leased by the control of the and has subsequently become lest. Store my further investigation is conducted in this matter, it is suggested that the facts in this case be presented to the United States Attorney for his epinion as to presentates should the facts aliquit be proved type.

A SECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF T

Sid Untrelacti

This will be done.

Inspection Report Pittsburgh Oction Inspector March 7, 1968

**570** 

20-1377

	TRANSMIT VIA:  Teletype Facsimile  AIRTEL	FBI. PRECEDENCE: Immediate Priority Routine	CLASSIFICATION:  TOP SECRET  SECRET  CONFIDENTIAL  UNCLAS E F T O  UNCLAS  Date 4/17/81	
DK	Subject UNSUB; Three	fle Association (N	ATTENTION:  CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE CIVIL RIGHTS SECONT DOMESTIC SECURIT TERRORISM SECTION PERSONAL AND PROCESSECTION CRIMES SECTION  10421025	TION Y AND ON
AMBINITOR .	Summary of Comp  An anony D. C., via postcar forwarded by NRA The postcard was s FBI, by the Virgin  Postcard INDICES: Neg ACTION: UACB  3- Bu (Encs. 8)  1- WFO (Enc. 1) 2- Norfolk (1- 66-820) BAW:csb	CAA  AP  AP  Threats  Itaint:  Itaint:	en and The Susa Secret Susa ATF	and inia. fice,

Approved: \_

(Time) (Number)

Transmitted \_

FOITDOJ

NF 174C-529

#### Request of the FBI Laboratory

Per MIOG, Part 1, 174-3.2.5, page 800, postcard furnished to Laboratory for document and latent fingerprint examination.



#### U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No. NF 174C-529

Norfolk, Virginia

April 17, 1981

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
THREAT TO BOMB
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA)
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APRIL 2, 1981

On April 8, 1981,
Harlon B. Carter, Executive Vice President, National
Rifle Association (NRA), Washington, D. C., forwarded a postcard
addressed to that association to the Chief of Police, Virginia
Beach, Virginia.

The postcard was addressed to the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036, and was postmarked in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on April 2, 1981. The front of the postcard bore the notation:

"'N. R. A.'
MAN OF THE YEAR
HINCKLEY"

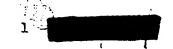
The back of the postcard contained the following printed message:

"CURSE OF USA LOBBIES
I WOULD GIVE \$100
NOW TO HELP EOMB
YOUR OFFICES PLUTOS - WEALTH OF LOBBIES"

This postcard was in turn forwarded to the Norfolk Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation where it was received on April 17, 1981. The postcard has been fowarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination. No additional investigation is being initiated at Norfolk.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

174-> 1/1-



570



### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To:

SAC, Norfolk (174C-529)

May 21, 1981

From: Director, FBI

FBI FILE NO.

174-8911

LAB. NO.

10421025 D VE

ReUNSUB; Threat to Bomb
(National Rifle Association (NRA)
Washington D. G.
4/2/81

Examination requested by:

Norfolk

Reference:

Airtel dated April 17, 1981

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

7 MAY 21 (#81

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PAGE OF A COMMISSIBLATIVE

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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JBM:pmg (4)

MAIL ROOM [

F81/00J

### REPORT of the





### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON. D. C. 20535

To:

SAC, Norfolk (1740-529)

May 21, 1981

FBI FILE NO.

174-8911

LAB. NO.

10421025 D VD

Re:UNSUB; Threat to Bomb National Rifle Association (NRA) Washington, D. C. 4/2/81

Specimens received

April 20, 1931

Ql Postcard postmarked "VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. PM 2 APR 1981" addressed to "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN..."

Result of examination:

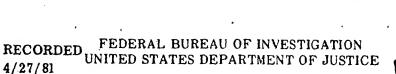
Specimen Q1 was searched through the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Copies have been added to this file for future reference.

No watermarks, indented writing or other identifying characteristics were noted on specimen Q1 which would indicate the immediate source of this item.

Specimen Q1, which has been photographed, will be returned separately with the results of the latent fingerprint examination.

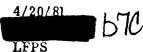
JBM: pmg (4) \*

~ ÷, **3** 



4/27/81 pmg\*

Laboratory Work Sheet



To:

SAC, Norfolk (174C-529)

174-8911-FBI FILE NO.

Re:

UNSUB; Threat to Bomb National Rifle Association (NRA)

Washington, D. C.

4/2/81

LAB. NO.

10421025 D VE

YOUR NO.

Examination by:

Examination requested by:

Norfolk

Reference:

Airtel dated April 17, 1981

Examination requested: Specimens received:

Document - Fingerprint

April 20, 1981

Postcard postmarked "VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. PM 2 APR Q1 1981" addressed to "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN...."

A. T. - U.C. + P. M.C. Va., m. X., M.C.

F. Sent ( Fam. My 10. W. T. M. 9/10. 11 70. 11

Thank ( 1.C., 70. 1)

File ( 1.C., 70. 1)

5/11/8/909

- Telle value action and and the second

Results of examination:

Specimen Ql was searched through the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Copies have been added to this file for future reference.

No watermarks, indented writing or other identifying characteristics were noted on specimen Ql which would indicate the imediate sourace of this item.

Specimen Q1, which has been photographed, will be returned separately with the results of the latent fingerprint examination.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location i explain this deletion.	in the file. One or more of	the following statements, where indicated,
	Deletions were made pursuant to the exem release to you.	nptions indicated below with	no segregable material available for
	Section 552	·	Section 552a
	□ (b)(1)	□ (b)(7)(A)	□ (d)(5)
	□ (b)(2) ·	□ (b)(7)(B)	□ (j)(2)
	□ (b)(3)	□ (b)(7)(C)	$\square$ (k)(1)
	·	□ (b)(7)(D)	$\square$ (k)(2)
		□ (b)(7)(E)	$\square$ (k)(3)
		□ <b>(</b> b)(7)(F)	□ (k)(4)
	□ (b)(4)	□ <b>(</b> b)(8)	
	(b)(5)	· □ (b)(9)	□ (k)(6)
	□ (b)(6)		$\square$ (k)(7)
	Information pertained only to a third party request is listed in the title only.	with no reference to the sub	bject of your request or the subject of your
0	Documents originated with another Govern for review and direct response to you.	ment agency(ies). These do	ocuments were referred to that agency(ies)
	Pages contain information furnished by ar to the releasability of this information follows:	nother Government agency(i lowing our consultation with	es). You will be advised by the FBI as a the other agency(ies).
	Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final releadisposition at a later date.	ase determination has not be	een made. You will be advised as to the
Ž.	Pages were not considered for release as t	Airtel	14-HD-8911-1(Pas. 1+2)
	Page(s) withheld for the following reason(	s):	7,70,
e	The following number is to be used for refe 174-40-8911-2	rence regarding these pages	:
	117-114 0111 2 11	(5.576)	
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Bureau	
(Attn: FBI Laboratory)	~
Forfolk (ketterk (sirtel) dated 4/17/81	
Worfolk File No. 174C-529	
F110 Fo	
Rai UNSUB; Threat to Bomb	
Nation   Rifle Association	
Washington, D. C.	
4/2/81	
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Anonymous postcard containing bomb threat

FILE # . 174 - 8911 -2 CONTENTS: LAB WORKSHEET ITEMS

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WASHINGTON
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### RECORDED UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 4/27/81

pmg\*

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded: 5-19-81 7:15 a.m., ljw

Received: 5-18-81

4/20/81

To:

SAC, Norfolk (174C-529)

FBI FILE NO.

174-8911 —

Re:

UNSUB; Threat to Bomb National Rifle Association (NRA) Washington, D. C.

Mesimigron, D

4/2/81

LAB. NO.

YOUR NO. 10421025 D VE

LC#B-99610

Examination by:

Noted By:

b70

Examination requested by:

Reference:

Norfolk

Examination requested:

Q1

Airtel dated April 17, 1981

Specimens received:

Document - Fingerprint

April 20, 1981

Postcard postmarked "VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. PM 2 APR 1981" addressed to "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN...."

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Examination completed / 133 P

5/278/

Dictated 5 /276: 1

Date

F\$1/DQ.



### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

release to you.		
Section 5	<u>552</u>	Section 552a
□ (b)(1)	□ (b)(7)(A)	□ (d)(5)
□ (b)(2) -	□ (b)(7)(B)	□ (j)(2)
□ (b)(3)	. 🗆 (b)(7)(C)	$\square$ (k)(1)
	(b)(7)(D)	□ (k)(2)
	(b)(7)(E)	□ (k)(3)
	□ (b)(7)(F)	$\square$ (k)(4)
[] (b)(4)	□ (b)(8)	□ (k)(5)
(b)(5)	□ (b)(9)	□ (k)(6)
□ (b)(6)		$\square (k)(7)$
request is listed in the title of	nly.  unother Government agency(ies). These	e subject of your request or the subject of you
Pages contain information to the releasability of this i	furnished by another Government agen- information following our consultation of as a final release determination has no for release as they are duplicative of	ot been made. You will be advised as to the
Page(s) withheld for the fo		

XXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXX 

	FBI	
TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
☐ Teletype	Immediate	☐ TOP SECRET
Facsimile	☐ Priority	☐ SECRET
☆ airtel	Routine	☐ CONFIDENTIAL
/		☐ UNCLAS E F T O
		☐ UNCLAS
		Date _6/5/81
. TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI	
FROM:	SAC, WFO (174C-885) (RI	UC)
	REAT TO BOMB RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA) N, D.C.	
	ReNorfolk airtel dated	4/17/81.
1	On 5/7/81, a WFO repre	sentative contacted
National	Rifle Association, wash	ington, D.C.
Macronar		no further information
forwarded Virginia.	the subject post card it to the Chief of Pol for information only. that the NRA receives nu	and stated that he ice. Virginia Beach, further
	WFO considers this mat	ter RUC.
V-		
		171-3911-4
2 Burea 2 - Norfo 1 - WFO	nu olk (1740-529)	174
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♦ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980-305-750/5402



#### ZDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIG. JION

Washington, D. C. 20537

#### REPORT

of the

# LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

YOUR FILE NO. 1740-529 FBI FILE NO. 174-8911 LATENT CASE NO.B-99610

June 17, 1981

TO:SAC. Horfolk

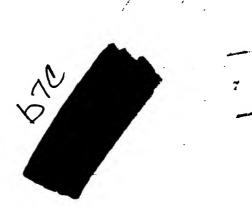
UNSUB.;
THELAT. TO FOUR
RECATIONAL RIFTH ASSOCIATION (WRA)
WASHINGTON, D.C.
4-2-81

REFERENCE: Airtel 4-17-81 EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Norfolk SPECIMENS: (ne postcard, 41

The result of the laboratory examination is being furnished separately.

No latent prints of value were developed on the enclosed specimen.

Fnc.



MAIL ROOM [7]